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Roger Federer
tames Roddick anew in US Open

WORLD / A28

Security lapse probed:
B-52 bomber flew over US with nuclear warheads

NEWS / A2

2 retired CA justices ask
SC to stop Senate probe of Garci starting today

NEWS / A2

PMA '06 valedictorian
Lt. Ariel Toledo dies of liver cancer; 27

45 years
Metrobank
For a fresh perspective in banking leadership.
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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, September 7, 2007 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 271 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Big businessmen want closure in Erap case

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINES' MOST INFLUENTIAL business leaders yesterday said they would accept whatever the Sandiganbayan would decide in Joseph Estrada's P4-billion plunder case, with some saying they would support an amnesty or pardon in the event of a guilty verdict.

BIG BUSINESSMEN/ A15

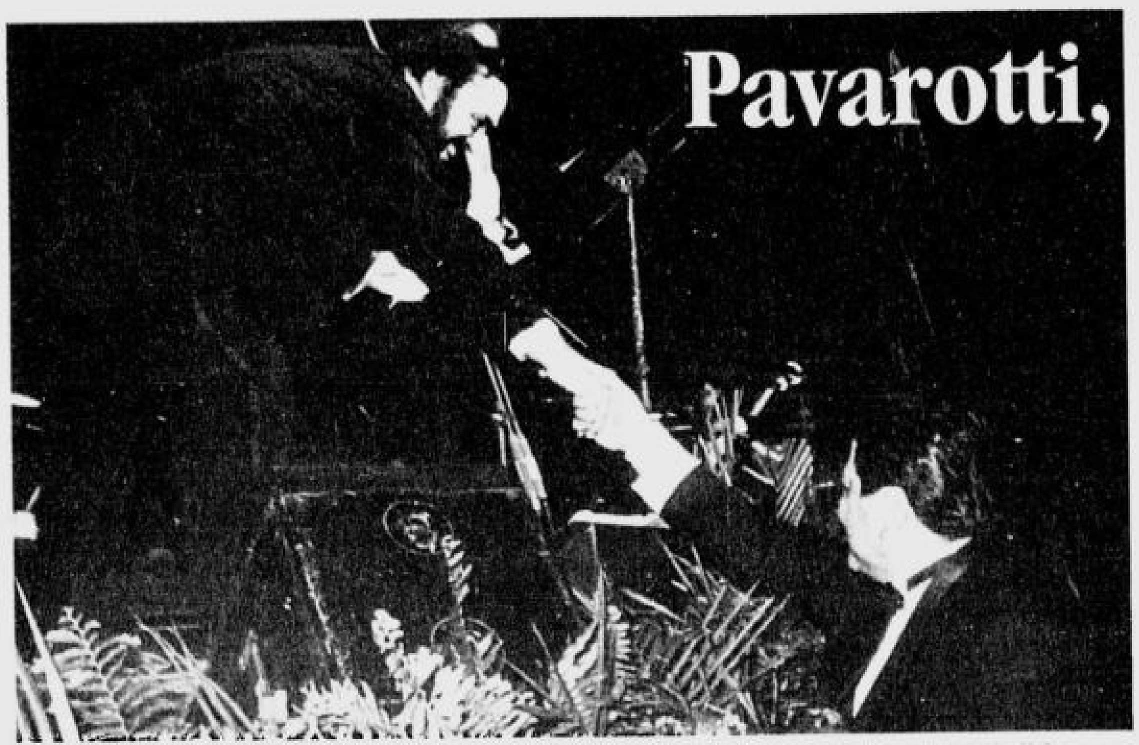
Pinoys remember him best for what he didn't sing

HAILED BY MANY AS THE GREATEST TENOR of his generation, Luciano Pavarotti sang at the Philippine International Convention Center on March 21, 1994. His stint in Manila, however, is best remembered by Filipino music lovers for what the Italian tenor didn't sing.

Nursing a fever and a runny nose, Pavarotti could only shake his head when

PINOYS/ A8

Pavarotti, 'most beautiful tenor voice of our time,' is dead at 71



THRILLA IN MANILA: Opera's global superstar was presented by impressario Rosemarie "Baby" Arenas in a sold-out concert at the PICC on March 21, 1994. Then Vice President Joseph Estrada was the highest ranking official in the audience and rose to his feet to honor the tenor after his last song. INQUIRER FILE

ROME—LUCIANO PAVAROTTI, whose vibrant high C's and ebullient showmanship made him the most beloved and celebrated tenor since Caruso and one of the few opera singers to win crossover fame as a popular superstar, died Thursday. He was 71.

His manager, Terri Robson, said that Pavarotti died at his home in Modena, Italy, at 5 a.m. (0300 GMT). Pavarotti had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer last year and underwent further treatment in August.

"The maestro fought a long, tough battle against pancreatic cancer which eventually took his life. In fitting with the approach that characterized his life and work, he remained positive until finally succumbing to the last stages of his illness," Robson said in a statement.

For serious fans, the unforced beauty and thrilling urgency of Pavarotti's voice made him the ideal interpreter of the Italian lyric repertory, especially in the 1960s and '70s when he first achieved stardom.

For millions more, his charismatic performances of standard arias like "Nessun Dorma" from Puccini's "Turandot" came to represent what

WHAT OPERA IS ALL ABOUT AP

PAVAROTTI/ A8

Palace calls key players

Mendoza, Neri meet with Ermita on ZTE deal

By Michael Lim Ubac, Tony S. Bergonia and Norman Bordadora

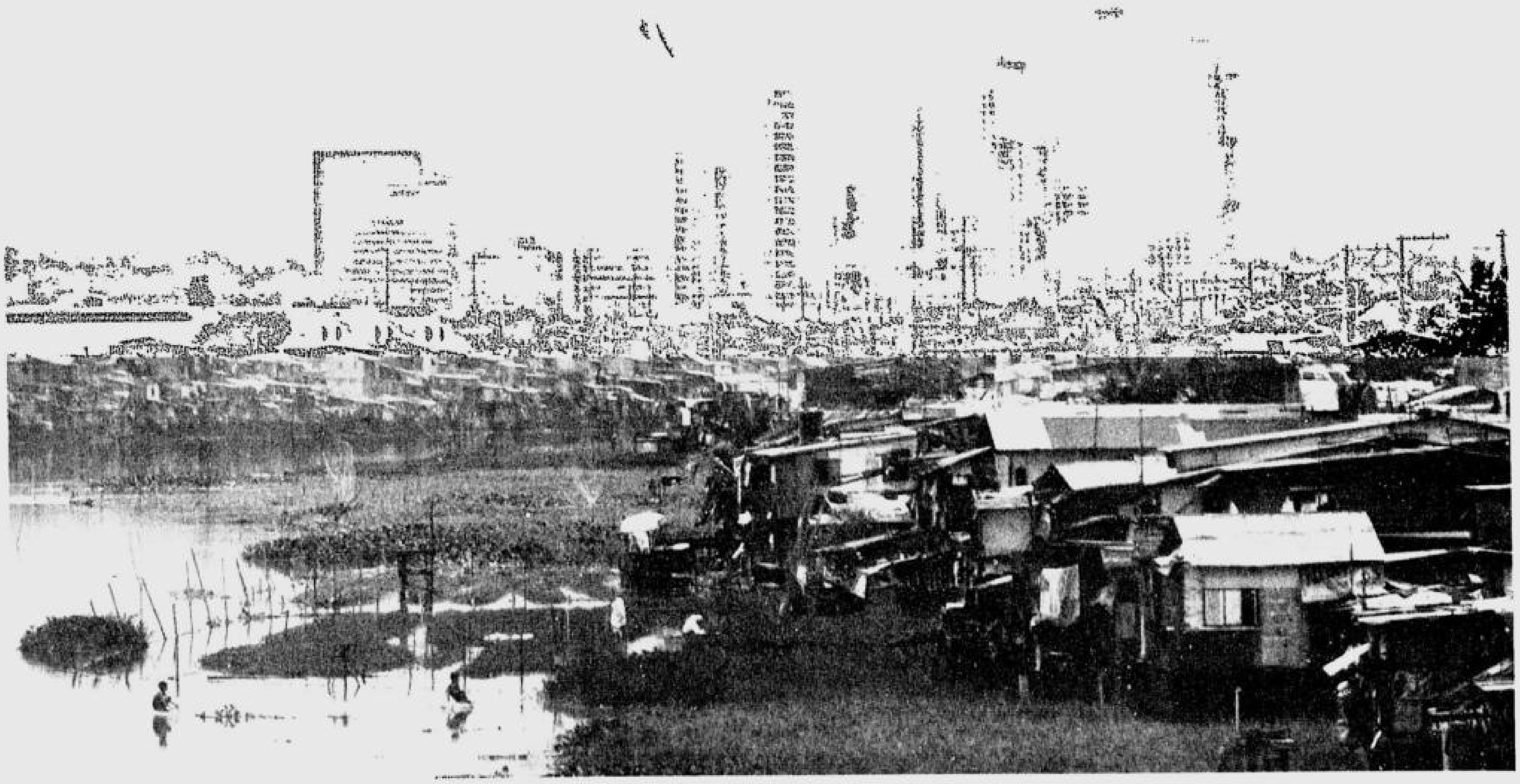
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Eduardo Ermita yesterday summoned to a closed-door meeting the alleged main players in the national broadband network (NBN) project, Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza and former Planning Secretary Romulo Neri.

The $329-million NBN contract won by ZTE Corp. has been met by public uproar over allegations of massive bribery and undue advantage given to the Chinese firm.

Earlier in the day, Ermita said he would ask Neri to explain the circumstances surrounding the deal.

"I will talk to him. He's in the

PALACE/ A4



SHANTYTOWN DREAMING The view from the shantytown along the banks of the floodway in Pasig City is richly rewarding for its aspirational residents: Sleek condos rising up like a dream world in the misty distance of Eastwood, Libis, Quezon City. EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA has a lot on her plate today in Sydney

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SYDNEY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo arrived here last night a little more than a day before she and 20 other leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) begin a summit on Saturday.

Philippine Consul General Maria Theresa Lazaro said there were no arrival honors for Ms Arroyo at the Sydney International Airport at 8:54 p.m. because of the "informal" tradition of the Australian government.

The President was accompanied on the chartered Philippine Airlines flight by her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo and a high-powered business delegation.

Ms Arroyo has a full agenda today, before the two-day Apec leaders meeting which begins on Saturday.

First on her schedule will be lunch hosted by US President George W. Bush for her and other leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations at 11 a.m. today. Bush will then have a 20-minute meeting with Ms Arroyo.

She will also meet with American and Australian businessmen and leaders of the Global Filipino Networking Conference tonight.

Before the Bush-Arroyo talks, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo will meet with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Lazaro said Rice and Romulo are expected to discuss the fight against terrorism, continuing US military aid to the

GMA HAS/ A16

CA orders AFP: Yield report in Jonas case

By Leila B. Salaverria

SAYING THE LIFE AND LIBERTY of missing activist Jonas Burgos take precedence, the Court of Appeals directed the provost marshal general to produce its report on a plate number under military custody that was later seen on the vehicle of Jonas' abductors.

The appellate court denied a motion to quash the subpoena for the report, saying the worst

CA ORDERS/ A4

MMDA's 'Gwapotel' big hit at ₱20 a night, ₱5 a bath, with transients

By DJ Yap

SINCE OPENING FOUR MONTHS ago, "Gwapotel Inn" run by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority has apparently delivered on its no-frills offer: Safe, decent lodgings for out-of-towners on a frugal budget.

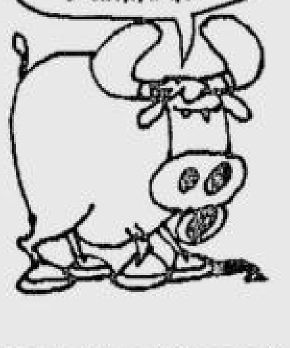
And according to MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, even white-collar types and traders have been checking in, taking advantage of the token charges: P20 for a night's stay, a minimum of P5 for a bath.

More than 40,000 transients have had a generally pleasant stay in the four-story "hotel" on Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, since its opening on May 14, Fernando reported in a statement yesterday.

The 710-bed inn, which used to house the offices of National Power Corp. but is now painted in "BF's" signature pink and blue, has since posted an average occupancy rate of 73 percent, or about 519 guests daily, the agency said.

But unlike in regular hotels, the overnighters don't get a room but share a common sleeping area, their double-deck beds

MMDA'S/ A19


MAHIRAP LINISIN ANG LAGING NADUDUMIHAN!

Palace forms new media office to polish RP int'l image

By Michael Lim Ubac and Christian V. Esguerra

MISSION: TO POLISH THE Philippines' image in the global arena.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has formed a separate media office "to monitor overseas media coverage and plan/coordinate initia-

PALACE/ A19

EZ2
② ⑮

SIX DIGIT
⓪ ④ ⑨ ⑧ ⑤ ⓪

Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening
⑨ ④ ⑧ | ③ ⑧ ⑤
(All in exact order)

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Mostly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/09/06/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

SC asked to stop 'Garci' probe

2 ex-Court of Appeals justices file for TRO on eve of Senate hearing

By Leila B. Salaverria, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Christine Avendaño

SAYING THE ISSUE WOULD FURTHER DIVIDE the country, two retired appellate court justices yesterday asked the Supreme Court to stop the Senate's reopening of the "Hello Garci" controversy to probe President Macapagal-Arroyo's alleged involvement in electoral fraud as purportedly shown by wiretapped phone conversations.

Retired Court of Appeals Justices Santiago Ranada and Oswaldo Agcaoili also told the high court the Senate's planned investigation, scheduled to open today, would be in violation of the Anti-Wiretapping Law, or Republic Act No. 4200, as well as the constitutional rights of those appearing before it.

They said that since the rules of procedure for the conduct of inquiries in aid of legislation had not yet been published, "any person who may testify in the investigation is deprived of his rights."

Ranada and Agcaoili filed the petition for a temporary restraining order on the Senate investigation, and for an eventual permanent injunction against it, as concerned citizens, taxpayers and members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

"Petitioners are of the firm conviction [that] any attempt to use the so-called Garci tape will further divide the country," they said in their petition.

"Unless a TRO or preliminary injunction is issued, the dubious Senate investigation/inquiry/hearings will escalate into a continuing violation, if not a flaunting disregard or defiance, of the Constitution, including the serious infringement of the constitutional rights of those involved, affected or invited as resource speakers, as well as a violation of RA 4200," they said.

According to the retired justices, the Anti-Wiretapping Law prohibits wiretapping as well as the mere possession and use of wiretapped materials. They said even the discussion of the transcripts or contents of illegally recorded conversations was not allowed.

"The Constitution sternly provides that an illegal wiretap shall be inadmissible for any purpose in any proceeding," they said.

The use of evidence obtained in violation of a person's right to privacy is also banned under the Constitution, the former justices said.

"There is no court order authorizing the wiretapping of the purported conversation nor is there a law allowing such on the ground of public safety and order," they said.

Bishop Socrates Villegas, retired Gen. Efren Abu, a former Armed Forces chief of staff, and former Army Sgt. Vidal Doble will topbill the opening today of the Senate's Hello Garci probe which will focus on the extent of the military's wiretapping operation, the public officials who ordered the bugging, and election cheating.

The three confirmed their attendance through intermediaries, said Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the committee on national defense which will lead the joint Senate panel probe into the wiretapped conversations between the President and former election official Virgilio Garcillano.

Biazon said the defense committee was not interested in listening to the tapes, which would remove fears of possible violation of the Anti-Wiretapping Law.

"All we need to do is to establish that there is a tape and find out who were responsible for those tapes so we can establish what the Isafp was doing at the time," said Biazon.

Not all heroes' deaths are on battlefield, young officer shows

By Tarra Quismundo

IN THE FACE OF DEATH, THE warrior within shone through.

His was a fight different from his "mistahs" in the battlefield, but Air Force Lt. Ariel Toledo died a hero just the same in a hospital bed Wednesday night, succumbing to the liver cancer he had fought so valiantly against for more than a year.

Toledo, valedictorian of Philippine Military Academy Class 2006 (Mandirigmang Dangal ng Lahi or Mandala) had dreamed of pursuing studies abroad and becoming a pilot.

Instead, he became the fifth casualty among the 324-strong Mandala Class, which lost Marine Lieutenants Eugene Machiste Piñera, Roldan Samera and Ermin Soloren in battle in Basilan on Aug. 18 and Army Lt. Mark Evan Onrubia in a communist rebel attack in a remote Abra town in May.

"Within four months we lost five classmates. So it's very tragic for our class, a big loss," said 2nd Lt. Marvin Alambra, among Toledo's closest mistahs (classmates).

"He didn't give up. Until the end, it was just his body that was giving in but mentally he was really fighting. He was one of the strongest among our classmates," Alambra said.

Toledo's older brother, Marlou, willed himself to talk when asked about the family's only soldier.

"He had many dreams. He wanted to help us all. But he fell sick... He was fighting until the end but it was for nothing," said Marlou, among the soldier's nine surviving siblings (two had died earlier).

Marlou said that since their parents died years ago, the siblings saw Ariel as their brightest hope.

Their policeman-father, Prudencio, along with brother Prudencio Jr., were killed in a tragic shooting in their native Ilocos Sur in 1992. Mother Pilar died from a health condition in 2001. Another older brother died as a child.

Toledo was accorded military honors yesterday at Villamor Air Base, his hearse greeted by the somber sound of trumpets and a line of young officers and enlisted men standing at attention and saluting their fallen comrade.

His white casket was draped in the Philippine flag in the Philippine Air Force mortuary, where his remains would lie for three days before being brought to rest in his hometown Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur, on Saturday.

He had expressed the wish to be buried there to his girlfriend of seven years, Margaret Encarnacion.

"He told me what he wanted... he said he should be buried in Ilocos... It was like we didn't want [to part ways] yet, he didn't want to go yet, but I guess he was already finding it hard to fight... I'm just not sure," said Encarnacion, fighting back the tears.

"Because whenever I asked him, he said he still could go on. And then, I don't know, maybe it was just not possible anymore," she said.

Encarnacion resigned from her job as a financial analyst in a beverage company to take care of Toledo.

"When he was still strong, when he was still at the PMA, we talked about our what-ifs, like what if something happened to him. He told me he didn't want people crying over him and he didn't want us to wear black. He wanted us to wear white so the mood won't be too sad," she said with a slight smile.

The couple would have wed in January 2008.

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It's September, so why does it feel like May?

IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE COOL AROUND this time of year; why then does it feel like summer all over again?

But the stifling heat that has broiled Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon and the Visayas the past few days is nothing unusual, weather forecasters said yesterday.

"Blame it on the high pressure area," Nathaniel Cruz, head of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration's weather branch, said in a phone interview.

A high pressure system brings bright, sunny days with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms in the evening.

"We actually call it fair weather," Pagasa weather observer Aldczar Aurelio said in an interview.

Aurelio explained that around this time of the year, when the earth is tilted 23.5 degrees, the sun's heat is concentrated on the northern hemisphere, where the Philippines is located.

The highest temperatures of 35.5° Celsius on Monday, 36°C on Tuesday and 36°C on Wednesday were all recorded by the Pagasa station in Catabalogan, Samar.

In Quezon City, the temperature rose from 33.2°C on Monday to 33.9°C on Tuesday before dipping ever so slightly to 33.8°C on Wednesday. The highest temperature recorded so far in Metro Manila was 37°C in Quezon City on April 24. *TJ Burgonio*

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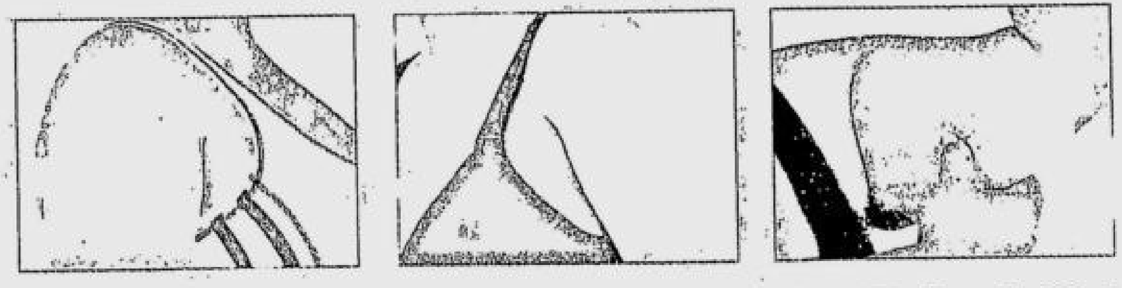

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Palace calls key players; Neri to be asked about bribe offer

From page A1

papers today," the executive secretary said.

Ermita, however, pointed out that Neri "neither confirmed nor denied the bribery attempt.

Neri neither confirmed nor denied on Wednesday that he was offered P200 million to support the NBN project, which seeks to establish a seamless connectivity of landline, cellular and Internet services among all government agencies and offices.

Neri, now head of the Commission on Higher Education, said he would talk when properly summoned by Congress. The House and the Senate are set to investigate the deal.

Rep. Carlos Padilla, in a privilege speech, said Neri, former director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), had been offered up to P250 million to support the deal.

Asked about the bribe reportedly offered to Neri, Ermita said: "I have yet to verify it, but I will talk to him."

Ermita had to preside over the meeting with Mendoza and Neri because President Macapagal-Arroyo left yesterday for Sydney to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

As of press time, Ermita, Mendoza and Neri were still in the meeting in Malacañang.

The NBN project was approved by the Neda board, a Cabinet-level body presided over by Ms Arroyo, in the first quarter of 2007.

But Neri said Ms Arroyo did not pick ZTE to implement the NBN project because the Neda board only approved the "policy" of setting up the broadband project. Beri said it was the DOTC that chose ZTE.

No engineering design

The Philippine government struck a deal with ZTE to build a broadband backbone without a detailed design of the project, the supply contract that Philippine officials entered into with ZTE showed.

The absence of the engineering design when the contract was signed indicates that the project's technical specifications were subject to under-the-table deals, a UP economics professor yesterday said.

Big stink

A copy of the contract, obtained by the INQUIRER, showed that there was no detailed engineering design yet for the NBN project at the time Mendoza and ZTE vice president Yu Yong signed the supply contract on April 21 in the presence of Ms Arroyo in Hainan, China.

Raul Fabella, economics professor at the University of the Philippines who coauthored a paper on the NBN, expressed surprise upon learning that there was no engineering design at the time of the contract signing.

"In this case, the specs (specifications) could be moved around, depending on unclear terms," said Fabella, who wrote the UP paper on NBN with Emmanuel de Dios, dean of the UP School of Economics.

"This has become a very big stink," he said in a phone interview. "It's amazing."

Under the contract's heading Scope of Work, Article 16.2 said: "The contractor (ZTE) shall prepare and complete the detailed engineering services, the plans, specifications and designs and submit the same for the approval of the purchaser (government)."

"As specified in the attachment in this contract, the contractor shall: a) prepare and complete the detailed engineering studies, plans, specifications, and designs for the project and submit the same for approval by the purchaser," the contract said.

It wasn't clear how the project proponents were able to come up with $329 million as the cost of the NBN project without a detailed engineering design.

Provision to determine cost

But in the absence of a detailed engineering design, the contract has a provision that would determine costs based on designs that had yet to be submitted at the time of the signing.

"The Priced Bill of Quantities shall be revised in accordance with the actual requirement of the project to be determined and approved by the purchaser and the contractor during the detailed engineering stage," said Article 5 of the supply contract.

Critics of the deal called for an investigation of allegations that Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos had brokered the deal and offered bribes to people whose support was needed to push the project.

Abalos repeatedly denied the accusation, but admitted that he had met with officials of ZTE for golf here and in China.

Abalos now faces impeachment proceedings in the House of Representatives.

Impeachment rules

The House on Wednesday night adopted provisional rules that will govern impeachment proceedings and congressional inquiries in aid of legislation.

House Majority Leader Arthur Defensor said the chamber adopted the rules because of the imminent filing of an impeachment complaint against Abalos.

A former congressman, Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico, has said that he had enough evidence to nail Abalos in an impeachment case.

Suplico said he would file the impeachment complaint against Abalos next week.

A businessman, who talked on condition of anonymity, said Abalos had brokered the deal and offered $10 million to businessman Jose de Venecia III, cofounder of AHI, to back out of the broadband project.

Lack of clarity

The UP paper written by Fabella and De Dios pointed to lack of clarity as the major source of confusion in the debate over whether or not the country needed the NBN.

"The debate … has become confused largely because the government has failed to specify a.) its minimum technological requirements and b.) its minimum commitments if the project were to be implemented via BOT (build-operate-transfer)," said the UP paper.

"As a result, government officials are able to fob off one proposal against another by merely citing one or the other technical detail," it said.

A list of annexes attached to the April 21 supply contract failed to indicate the existence of an engineering design at the time of the contract signing.

Intellectual property rights

Assistant Secretary Lorenzo Formoso of the DOTC and one of the key figures pushing for the deal, said in an interview before the INQUIRER obtained a copy of the contract that one of the key concerns of ZTE officials in not being open with details, particularly technical ones, was intellectual property rights.

The UP paper, however, said that it was self-defeating for the government to venture into a project without the specifics of what it wanted.

"Since it (government) did not set its own minimum conditions beforehand, however, the government effectively allowed bidders and loan-pushers to write their own terms regarding what should and should not be included in the NBN project, what technology should be used, and so on," said the UP paper.

Like 'fruits in general'

"This situation is as absurd as calling for a bid to supply government with 'fruits in general,'" it said.

"This gives great leeway for discretion—and not too far behind, opportunities for corruption—on the part of those authorized to make the final selection," it said.

Despite the absence of an engineering design at the time of the signing, the contract was able to fix the costs of the project components.

For equipment, the contract said $194 million was to be allotted out of the $329 million. About $118 million would be for engineering services.

At least $14 million would be for "managed services," while $1.9 million would be for training.

While there were no engineering specifications at the time of the signing, the contract was clear on the terms of payment.

Cost of equipment

For equipment, the contract said 15 percent of $329 million shall be paid in advance by the government 10 days after the contract's implementation starts.

The government, under the contract, shall pay half the cost of equipment delivered within 10 days after the papers for the delivery had been submitted, as the project is carried out.

The government, said the contract, shall also pay in advance 15 percent of the cost of engineering services 10 days after the start of the contract's implementation.

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CA orders AFP . . .

From page A1

that could happen with its disclosure was the Armed Forces of the Philippines would be embarrassed and its involvement in the abduction would be known.

"This court is not ready to order the quashing of the subpoena merely because it would cause embarrassment to those AFP officers or personnel who made it possible for the abductors to possess or utilize the subject plate number in the abduction of Jonas Burgos," the court said in a resolution on Sept. 5.

"Jonas Burgos' liberty, or maybe even his life, which is at stake in the present petition for habeas corpus, takes primordial importance over those reasons being raised by respondents."

Col. Arthur Abadilla, the AFP provost marshal general, and Assistant Solicitor General Amparo Tang informed the court during the hearing of the habeas corpus petition yesterday that they would file a motion for reconsideration.

Tang said that even if the motion for reconsideration was denied, she would not consider it a setback since she did not think there was anything adverse in the report.

The family of Burgos, 36, son of the late publisher and press freedom icon Jose "Joe" Burgos, has been trying to get a copy of the report which was subpoenaed during an earlier hearing of the petition for habeas corpus that Burgos' mother Edita had filed.

Abadilla has told the court that the report is not under his control and that it is irrelevant to the petition because it only dealt with the administrative liability of officers involved in the loss of the license plate.

Fishing for evidence

Abadilla also said Edita Burgos was fishing for evidence and that the subpoena was unreasonable or oppressive because it would subject him to administrative and criminal liability. He cited a memo that prohibits the military from disclosing confidential information.

The 56th Infantry Battalion has been implicated in the April 28 abduction of Burgos from the Ever Gotesco Mall at Fairview in Quezon City after plate No. TAB-194 of a vehicle it had impounded was seen on the van used by the kidnappers.

"The provost marshal's report relative to the alleged loss of the said plate number would definitely shed light on how the said plate number ended up in the vehicle used in abducting Jonas Burgos. Hence, respondents' allegations that the Investigation Report is irrelevant to the issue at hand must fail," the court said.

It also said the military had failed to show that the disclosure of the information would endanger national security, be prejudicial to the interest or prestige of the nation or government activity, injure an individual, be advantageous to a foreign nation or cause administrative embarrassment.

No merit

The court found no merit in Abadilla's argument that the investigation report was no longer under his control since he had already submitted it to Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., the AFP chief of staff.

It said that during the Aug. 6 hearing, Abadilla had bought a copy of the report but asked for time to seek Esperon's approval for him to be allowed to provide the court a copy. His request was granted.

Burgos' family believes the military was involved in the abduction, but the Philippine National Police says communist guerrillas out to punish him for allegedly stealing funds of the New People's Army. The PNP says Burgos, an agriculturist who had trained peasants on organic farming, is an NPA officer in Bulacan.

Corrections

IN THE SEPT. 3 ISSUE, a story on Page A3—"9 senators vs 'Garci' probe–Migz"—misquoted Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri as saying that Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan was among the senators "who had been insistent about violating the civil rights of Ms Arroyo." Zubiri was referring to Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.—not Pangilinan.

* * *

IN THE SEPT. 5 ISSUE, a story on Page A11 had an erroneous headline—"Survey a vindication for Erap, says Jinggoy." It was San Juan City Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito—not Sen. Jinggoy Estrada—who issued the statement that the findings of a recent Social Weather Stations survey vindicated ousted President Joseph Estrada.

* * *

IN LATER COPIES OF THE SEPT. 6 ISSUE, a photo caption on Page A6 misstated the concurrent position of Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera. Devanadera was recently designated acting justice secretary—not "acting DOTC (Department of Transportation and Communications) chief."

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RP chosen site of first Asean arts and crafts exposition

THE PHILIPPINES HAS BEEN chosen as the venue for the first international expo to showcase the arts and crafts of designers and artists from the 10 Asean nations and their partner countries, it was announced by Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano.

The First International Arts and Crafts Expo of the Asean Handicraft Promotion and Development Association (AHPDA) will be held on Nov. 22 -25 at the SMX Convention and Exhibition Center, SM Central Business Park, SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

Durano said the expo has the support of the government and the private sector.

"The Asean expo will provide a platform to raise the level of awareness on the importance of arts and crafts in marketing tourism," Durano said. "The event will have three major components—exhibits, a business forum and cultural events."

Durano is chair of the expo's national organizing committee. Cochairs are Trade Secretary Peter Favila and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo. Philippine Tourism Authority General Manager Robert Barbers is vice chair while the SMX Convention Center is a copresentor.

Task force

In line with the expo, Durano has created a task force headed by Dr. Mina T. Gabor, AHPDA president and former tourism secretary, to oversee the country pavilions, arts and crafts markets, crafts demonstrations and workshops, cultural shows, national day celebrations and forums.

Filipino tourism attaches will coordinate the participation of their host countries in the marketing meeting called in Manila by Durano.

To be displayed in the pavilions are award-winning arts and crafts, including decorative items, jewelry, fashion wear and accessories, textiles and fabrics, household products, artistic creations and gift items.

The expo secretariat is at Legaspi Towers 300, Roxas Boulevard corner P. Ocampo Street, Manila, with tel. nos. 525-9318 to 27. More information can be had at www.ahpadaexpo.com or by e-mailing ahpadaexpo2007@yahoo.com or pcvcnet@dotpcvc.gov.ph.

It ain't over, but '07 already a banner year for tourism

By Jerome Aning

WITH FOUR MONTHS STILL TO go, the Department of Tourism is already hailing 2007 as a "milestone year" for Philippine tourism as it eyes a record-breaking 3 million foreign visitors.

"This will be a milestone year for the tourism industry," said Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano in a statement, citing first semester figures showing more than 1.5 million foreign tourist arrivals.

"With the upbeat and sustained momentum of visitor influx, we're looking at breaching, for the first time, the three million mark by yearend," Durano said.

Top dollar-earner

The DOT's latest figures showed arrivals in the first half of the year registering 7.6-percent growth over the same period last year—"a figure that supports the optimistic forecast," the secretary said.

The DOT sees visitor spending rising to as high as $2.9 billion, or P133 billion, this year.

Durano said visitor expenditure growth averaged 20.11 percent over the last three years, making tourism one of the top dollar-earners for the country.

In 2006 alone, he said, the travel and tourism industry generated an estimated 3.49 million jobs, cementing its position as one of the top employment-generators in the country.

But more than increased visitor arrivals, revenue and jobs, Durano said more than $2 billion in investments had been poured into tourism estates, hotel and resort development in emerging destinations like Marinduque and Eastern Samar.

Other destinations

Aside from the two provinces, the DOT, in cooperation with their local governments, is promoting other destinations like South Cotabato, Pampanga, Camarines Sur and Bantayan Island for both investors and tourists to consider.

Durano said an international luxury resort was developing a six-star hotel on Elephant Island in Marinduque—which showed the global business community had revived its interest in the Philippines.

Airlines have also opened new routes such as South Korea-Davao, Korea-Kalibo, Taipei-Cebu, Shanghai-Cebu and others.

With India and Russia emerging as fast-growing tourist sources, the DOT is currently negotiating for new routes to these countries.

Together with the Department of Foreign Affairs, it has finalized visa-upon arrival arrangements. Interisland connectivity has also improved with increased flights over the past year.

Strong demand

"It is still very much a supplier's market for the industry as resorts and hotels are overwhelmed with the strong demand for rooms. It is a good challenge to have and we need to ensure that infrastructure development preserves and sustains the natural resources in these areas," Durano said.

To highlight the country's multiple attractions, Durano recently ordered the revival of the slogan "7,107 islands" on DOT's promotional materials.

"Our country is a multi-destination, offering a wide variety of activities and attractions anywhere from historical walks to water sports. This effectively reflects our culture, a total experience we aggressively and proudly promote in our target markets," Durano told reporters.

Bullet still proves to be lucky charm for Filipino arrested, freed in Brunei

By Cynthia D. Balana

A FILIPINO WOMAN HAS BEEN FREED BY a court in Brunei after charges of possession of ammunition against her were dropped on "compassionate grounds," the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

Florida Narvarte Norman was set free on Sept. 1 after the public prosecutor's office informed the magistrate court that it did not wish to pursue the criminal case against her, according to a report by Philippine Ambassador to Brunei Virginia Benavidez.

The public prosecutor said Norman "did not pose a threat to the security of Brunei Darussalam following a background check."

Norman, a permanent resident of Australia, was reunited with her Australian husband, Peter, and their 1-year-old son, John Rainier, after 10 days' detention at Jerudong Prison.

Norman was traveling with her family to the Philippines from Darwin, Australia, via Brunei Darussalam when she was arrested at Brunei International Airport on Aug. 21 after a bullet was found in her wallet during a routine check. The Normans were about to board a connecting flight to Manila at the time.

During police investigation, Norman explained that her father had given her the bullet as an amulet during her university days in the Philippines. She has since kept the bullet as a lucky charm.

The DFA said the case against Norman was dismissed through the collective efforts of the Philippine Embassy, the office of Brunei's Attorney General and the Royal Brunei Police Force.

According to the ambassador, Norman was the third Filipino national to be charged with possession of ammunition. In August and October 2006, two Filipinos were arrested at the Brunei international airport and charged with the same offense after bullets were found in their possession. All three Filipinos said the live bullets were amulets and lucky charms.

The embassy has appealed to Filipinos traveling to or transiting in Brunei not to carry live ammunition.

"Such amulets or lucky charms could turn out to be magnets for unfortunate incidents during the trip. Brunei's Arms and Explosives Act is very stringent and punishes the unauthorized possession of ammunition with imprisonment of five to 15 years," Benavidez said.

Aside from imprisonment, those found with live bullets could also be punished with "whipping with of not less than 3 strokes and not more than 12 strokes."

A pregnant Filipino worker, meanwhile, who was a victim of illegal recruitment, has been repatriated from Turkey.

In his report to the DFA, Ambassador to Turkey Bahnarim Guinomla said the victim, whom he did not identify, left Istanbul en route to Manila on Sept. 5 with the assistance of the embassy.

Guinomla said the victim was five months pregnant and did not want to deliver her baby in Turkey. She claimed her boyfriend abandoned her and he could no longer be located.

Guinomla said the 22-year old OFW, who grew up in Cotabato City, was recruited in November 2004 by a friend in Metro Manila who falsified her birth data to make it appear she was 33 years old.

OK needed to hire Pinoys directly

By Jerome Aning

FOREIGN EMPLOYERS WHO WANT TO hire Filipino workers without using the services of local recruitment agencies must obtain approval from the Department of Labor and Employment, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration governing board has ruled.

In a board resolution, the POEA board repealed a section of the rules covering the recruitment of land-based overseas workers, which allows the registration with the POEA of "name hires" as an exemption from the ban on direct hiring.

"Name hires" refers to workers who obtain employment on their own without the participation of recruitment agencies.

Registration with the POEA gives overseas workers such benefits as insurance and health care, education and training, family welfare services as well as protection and assistance in their place of work.

The Labor Code prohibits an employer from hiring Filipino workers for overseas employment, except through the boards (the POEA or entities authorized by the secretary of labor.

As an exemption, however, the POEA was allowed to process the employment contracts of overseas Filipino workers who are directly hired by members of the diplomatic corps and international organizations.

Foreign employers who are accredited with private recruitment agencies are not allowed to directly hire Filipino workers, explained POEA administrator Rosalind Dimapilis-Baldoz.

The new measure will cover directly hired OFWs like nurses.

Baldoz said the POEA will soon be issuing guidelines for the implementation of the resolution.

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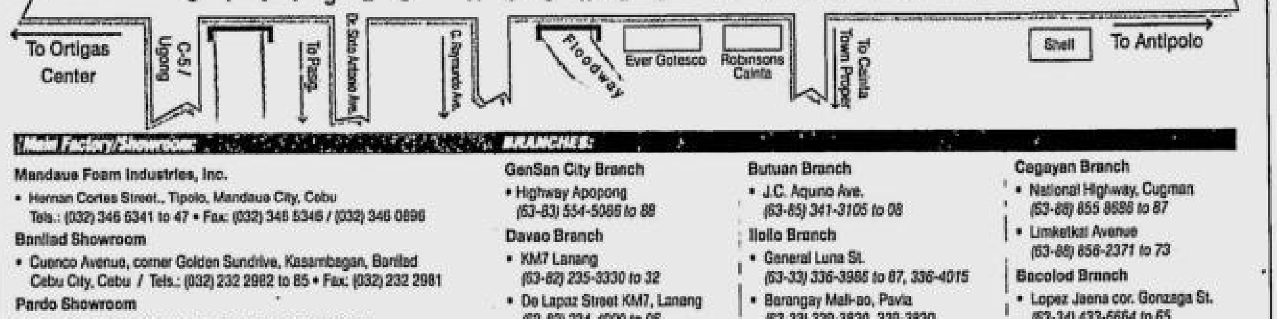

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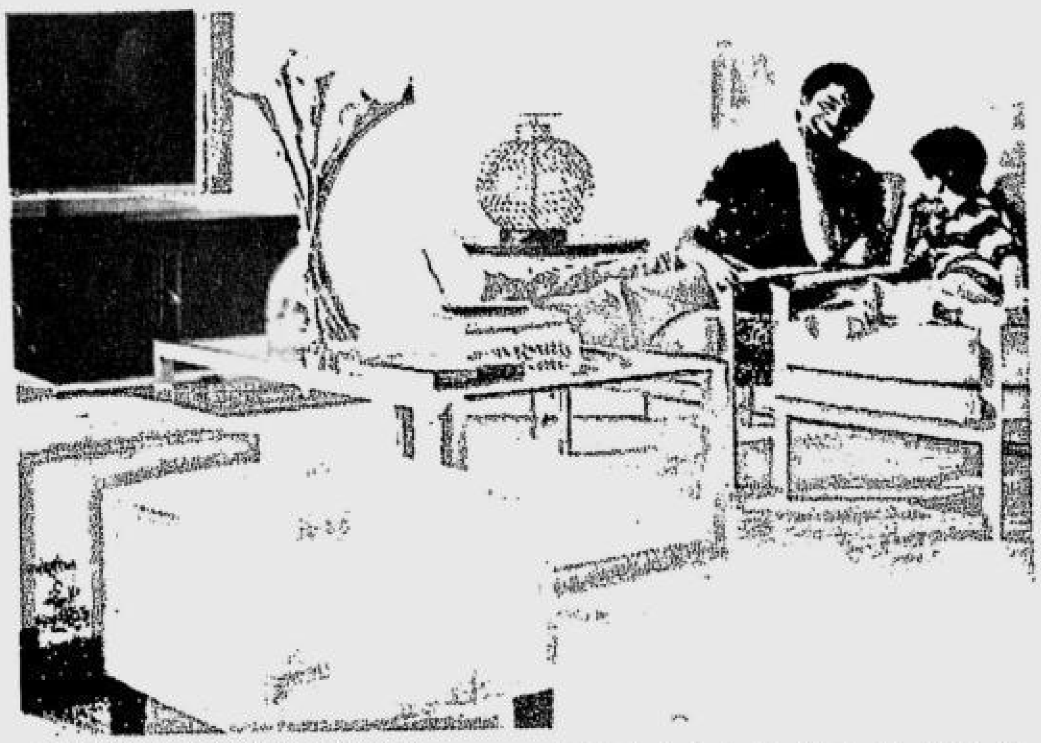

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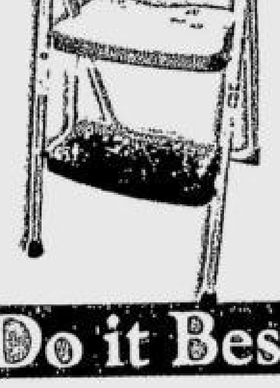

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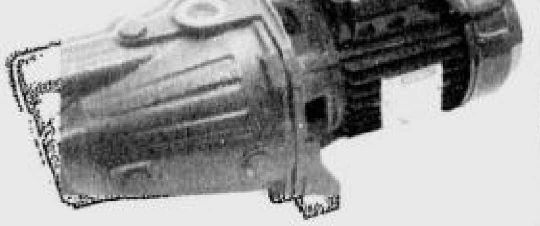

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Pavarotti, 'most beautiful tenor voice of our time,' is dead at 71

From page A1

opera is all about.

In fact, "Nessun Dorma" was Pavarotti's last performance, sung at the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy, in February 2006. His last full-scale concert was in Taipei in December 2005.

It was the second monumental loss in the opera world in recent months. American soprano Beverly Sills, whose widespread popularity mirrored Pavarotti's, died on July 2 at her home in New York. She was 78 and also suffered from cancer.

Intangible magic

Pavarotti was instantly recognizable with his charcoal black beard and tuxedo-busting girth. He radiated an intangible magic that helped him win hearts in a way Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras—his partners in the "Three Tenors" concerts—never quite could.

"I always admired the God-given glory of his voice—that unmistakable special timber from the bottom up to the very top of the tenor range," Domingo said in a statement from Los Angeles.

"I also loved his wonderful sense of humor and on several occasions of our concerts with Jose Carreras—the so-called Three Tenors concerts—we had trouble remembering that we were giving a concert before a paying audience, because we had so much fun between ourselves," he said.

Pavarotti, who seemed equally at ease singing with soprano Joan Sutherland as with the Spice Girls, scoffed at accusations that he was sacrificing his art in favor of commercialism.

Biggest superstar

"The word commercial is exactly what we want," he said, after appearing in the widely publicized "Three Tenors" concerts. "We've reached 1.5 billion people with opera. If you want to use the word commercial, or something more derogatory, we don't care. Use whatever you want."

"Pavarotti is the biggest superstar of all," the late New York Times music critic Harold Schonberg once said.

WHEN THE WORLD WAS YOUNG: With then Vice President Joseph Estrada and impressario Rosemarie "Baby" Arenas by his side, Pavarotti met the press on arrival in Manila for what was to be his one and only concert here. And he didn't sing the song he's best remembered for. INQUIRER PHOTO

In his heyday, he was known as the "King of the High C's" for the ease with which he tossed off difficult top notes. In fact, it was his ability to hit nine glorious high C's in quick succession that first turned him into an international superstar, singing Tonio's aria "Ah! Mes amis" in Donizetti's "La Fille du Regiment" at New York's Metropolitan Opera in 1972.

Pavarotti starred in a film called "Yes, Giorgio" (though its failure scuttled his hopes for a Hollywood career) and appeared in a filmed version of "Rigoletto." He wrote an autobiography, "I, Luciano Pavarotti," and made more than 90 recordings.

From Beijing to Buenos Aires, people immediately recognized his incandescent smile and lumbering bulk. Clutching a white handkerchief, he sang arias and Neapolitan folk songs, pop numbers and Christmas carols for hundreds of thousands in outdoor concerts.

Controversies

His name seemed to show up as much in gossip columns as serious music reviews, particularly after he split with Adua Veroni, his wife of 35 years and mother of their three daughters, and then took up with his 26-year-old secretary in 1996.

In late 2003, he married Nicoletta Mantovani in a lavish, star-studded ceremony. Pavarotti said their daughter Alice, nearly a year old at the time of the wedding, was the main reason he and Mantovani finally wed after years together.

In the latter part of his career, Pavarotti came under fire for canceling performances or pandering to the lowest common denominator in his choice of programs.

He was criticized for lip-synching at a concert in Modena, Italy, his hometown. An artist accused him of copying her works from a how-to-draw book and selling the paintings.

Pavarotti was also dogged by accusations of tax evasion. In 2000, he agreed to pay nearly $12 million to the Italian state after he had unsuccessfully claimed that the tax haven of Monte Carlo rather than Italy was his official residence.

"I cannot live being thought not a good person," he said upon agreeing to the tax settlement.

Son of a baker

The son of a baker who was an amateur singer, Pavarotti was born on Oct. 12, 1935, in Modena. As a boy, Pavarotti showed more interest in soccer than his studies, but he also was fond of listening to his father's recordings of tenor greats like Beniamino Gigli, Tito Schipa, Jussi Bjoerling and Giuseppe Di Stefano, his favorite.

In his teens, Pavarotti was influenced by the American movie actor-singer Mario Lanza. "In my teens I used to go to Mario Lanza movies and then come home and imitate him in the mirror," he said.

At 20, he traveled with his chorus to an international music competition in Wales. The Modena group won first place, and Pavarotti began to dedicate himself to singing.

In 1961, Pavarotti won a local voice competition and with it a debut as Rodolfo in Puccini's "La Boheme."

Series of successes

He followed with a series of successes in small opera houses throughout Europe before his 1963 debut at Covent Garden in London, where he stood in for Di Stefano as Rodolfo.

Having impressed conductor Richard Bonynge, Pavarotti was given a role opposite Bonynge's wife, soprano Joan Sutherland, in a Miami production of "Lucia di Lamermoor." They subsequently signed him for a 14-week tour of Australia.

It was the recognition Pavarotti needed to launch his career. He also credited Sutherland with teaching him how to breathe correctly.

In the following years, Pavarotti made a series of major debuts, appearing at La Scala in Milan in 1965, San Francisco in 1967 and New York's Metropolitan Opera House in 1968. Other early venues included Vienna, Paris and Chicago.

Throughout his career, Pavarotti struggled with a much-publicized weight problem. His love of food caused him to balloon to a reported high of 180 kilograms (396 pounds) in 1978. "Maybe this time I'll really do it and keep it up," he said during one of his constant attempts at dieting.

In the mid-1970s, Pavarotti became a true media star. He appeared in television commercials and began appearing in hugely lucrative mega-concerts outdoors and in stadiums around the world. Soon came joint concerts with pop stars. A concert in New York's Central Park in 1993 drew 500,000 fans.

'The Three Tenors'

Pavarotti's recording of "Volare" went platinum in 1988.

In 1990, he appeared with Domingo and Carreras in a concert at the Baths of Caracalla in Rome for the end of soccer's World Cup. The concert was a huge success, and the record known as "The Three Tenors" was a best-seller and was nominated for two Grammy awards. The video sold over 750,000 copies.

With a follow-up album recorded at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles in 1994, the three tenors have outsold every other performer of classical music. A 1996 tour earned each tenor an estimated $10 million.

Pavarotti liked to mingle with pop stars in his series of charity concerts, "Pavarotti & Friends," held annually in Modena. He performed with artists as varied as Ricky Martin, James Brown and the Spice Girls.

He also involved himself in humanitarian work, singing at benefit concerts to raise money for victims of tragedies, such as the war in Bosnia and an earthquake in December 1988 that killed 25,000 people in northern Armenia.

Malignant cancer

Pavarotti was preparing to leave New York in July 2006 to resume a farewell tour when doctors discovered a malignant pancreatic mass. He underwent surgery in a New York hospital, and all his remaining 2006 concerts were canceled.

In the summer of 2007, Pavarotti taught a group of selected students and worked on a recording of sacred songs, a work expected to be released in early 2008. He mostly divided his time between his home town, Modena, and his villa in the Adriatic seaside resort of Pesaro.

Pavarotti had three daughters with his first wife—Lorenza, Cristina and Giuliana; and one, Alice, with his second wife.

At his side when he died were his wife, Nicoletta; his four daughters; his sister, Gabriela; his nephews and close relatives and friends, Robson said. *Inquirer wires*

Pinoys remember him …

From page A1

concert goers yelled for his signature hit—the aria "Nessun Dorma" from Puccini's "Turandot."

It was the triumphal aria with its high C's that hooked a generation of soccer fans worldwide to the Pavarotti name. He sang it when he appeared at the opening of the 1990 football World Cup finals in Italy, and the aria became the theme for the whole tournament.

Once-in-a-lifetime

It wasn't to be for the once-in-a-lifetime Manila concert. "I have a fever, but you are an incredible audience and I try to give my best," the tuxedo-clad Pavarotti said before signing his final song, "Granada."

Still, the audience showed its appreciation for Pavarotti's gallant effort with hearty rounds of applause for his program of operatic arias and Neapolitian songs, including "O Sole Mio." He was accompanied by the Philippine Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Pavarotti's chosen conductor, Leone Magiera.

The concert, whose main beneficiary was the Padre Pio Lend-a-Hand Foundation of socialite Rosemarie "Baby" Arenas, was originally scheduled for March 18 and, by a strange coincidence, President Fidel V. Ramos was celebrating his 66th birthday the same day.

At Pavarotti's behest, however, organizers at the last minute rescheduled the concert to March 21. Organizers said that the tenor was afflicted with a slight cold and that it was unfair to the audience if he wasn't in top form. Ramos, who has been romantically linked to the socialite, did not attend the concert. But then Vice President Joseph Estrada, who served as Arenas' escort, and members of Manila's high society came out in full force for what turned out to be the most expensive concert then.

Tickets were priced from P3,000 for the cheapest seat in the PICC Plenary Hall to as much as P25,000 for a seat in the choice row. Some choice seats reportedly fetched as much as P100,000 each.

Scandalized by what seemed to him an outrageous display of extravagance, the late Sen. Blas F. Ople urged President Ramos to order the arrest of any government official found with a P25,000 ticket. In an unprecedented move, organizers responded by setting up at the nearby Film Center a video wall where ordinary folk could watch a simultaneous telecast of the concert.

Pavarotti, whose pristine voice brought opera to the masses, may not have sung "Nessun Dorma" during that special night in March 13 years ago.

Still, the "Pavarotti in Manila Concert" set the stage for similar concerts in the country by other world-class tenors—Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo and Andrea Bocelli. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

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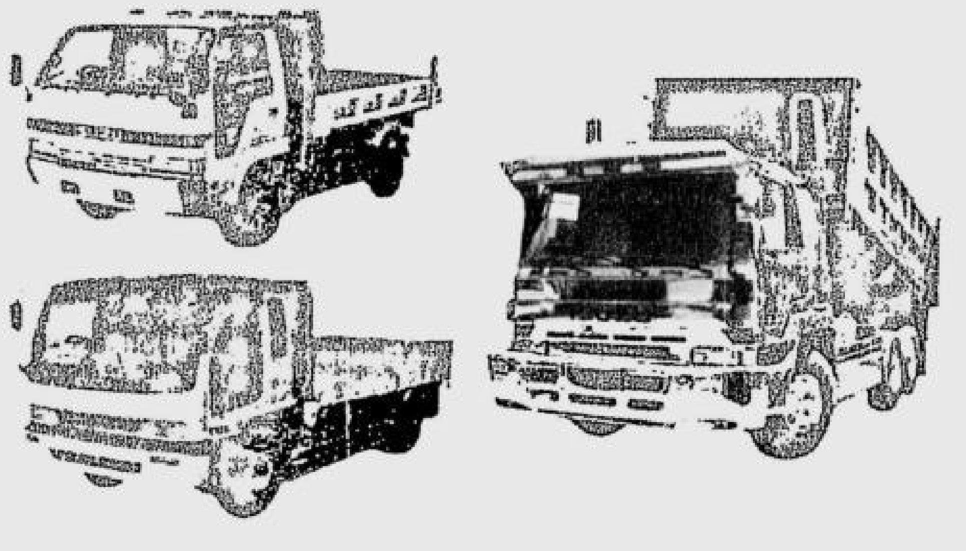

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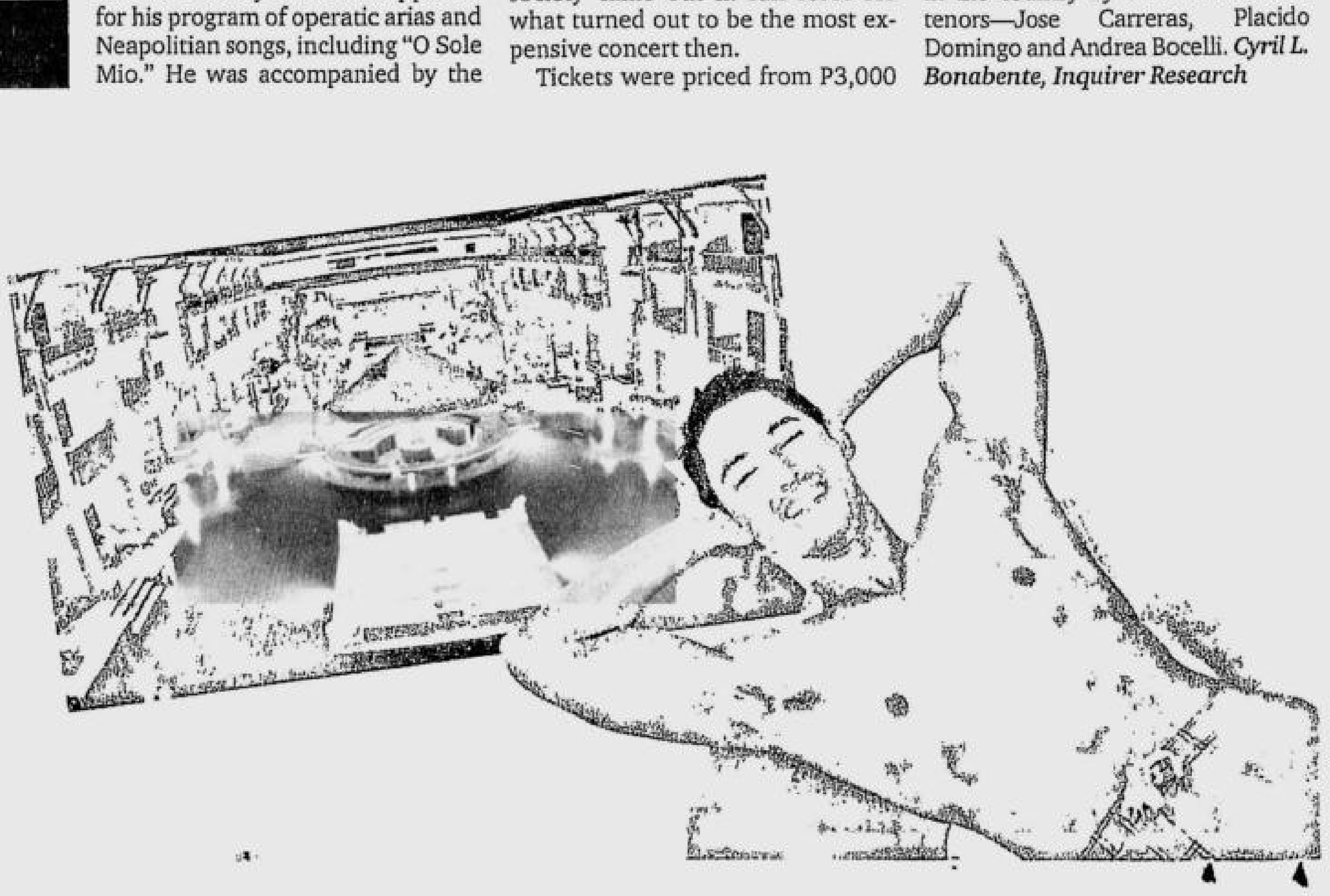

PNP says Reds, not Erap backers, bigger threat

By Alcuin Papa

IT'S THE COMMUNISTS AND NOT THE supporters of Joseph Estrada who are the biggest threat as the Sandiganbayan gets ready to hand down its verdict in the ousted president's plunder trial, the Philippine National Police said yesterday.

Deputy Director General Avelino Razon, PNP deputy chief for administration, made the statement to reporters yesterday following reports communist rebels and other groups intending to take advantage of the verdict to sow violence might infiltrate the ranks of Estrada supporters.

"The NPA (New People's Army) is the biggest threat because they are armed and they have been waging their campaign for almost 37 years now," Razon said.

He said the 125,000-strong PNP was ready for any protest action to be taken by pro-Estrada groups.

Aside from these groups, Razon said the PNP was ready to face the NPA who might attack government installations in retaliation of the arrest of Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Ma. Sison in the Netherlands.

Guarding against terrorists

Razon said the police were also guarding against terrorists who might launch bomb attacks as the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the US draws near.

He said they were also looking out for attacks by extremist groups in the southern Philippines as the military offensive in Sulu and Basilan are ongoing.

"We've prepared for all of these because we see a confluence of events. Our preparations are not only for the Sandiganbayan verdict but also for the daily anticrime and antiterror operations," Razon said.

The PNP is currently on heightened alert, which could be upgraded to full alert on the day the Estrada verdict is released.

Heightened alert means half of the police force should be at their posts at all times. Full alert means all policemen should be at their posts.

Razon said the PNP was ready to secure Estrada when he travels from his resthouse in Tanay, Rizal, where he is detained, to the Sandiganbayan in Quezon City.

Some 4,000 policemen will be deployed to guard Estrada on the day of the verdict. This would include 150 policemen who will guard Estrada's convoy and the Sandiganbayan courtroom. The rest of the policemen will be deployed outside the Sandiganbayan and Malacañang.

The antiriot police will be augmented by 2,000 soldiers. The PNP can also call for backup forces from the police commands in Region III and IV-A.

But so far, Razon said, they had not seen any threats against Estrada.

Sison was arrested by Dutch authorities last week for allegedly giving the order to kill his former comrades, Romulo Kintanar and Arturo Tabara, in the Philippines.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, a former spokesperson for Estrada, raised the issue of "overkill" in the deployment of thousands of policemen to secure the former President.

Chilling effect

"The deployment of 6,000 policemen will have a chilling effect on... freedoms. The freedom of assembly... and the freedom to raise grievances," Rodriguez said.

He said having thousands of policemen guarding Estrada and his supporters "is a violation of human rights."

"I am reminded of the time President Estrada was arrested in 2001. He was escorted by 3,000 policemen. It was an overkill and the people reacted to that," Rodriguez said.

But PNP Director General Oscar Calderon said at yesterday's budget hearing in the House of Representatives: "You will not see the 6,000 (policemen announced earlier). That's just part of the planning."

The PNP had earlier announced 6,000 cops would be involved in the security deployment when the antigraft court hands down its verdict.

"(The thousands of policemen) will be stationed in strategic locations," Calderon said. He said they would only be called out if a security problem arose. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

RP-China farm deals involve lease, say tillers

By TJ Burgonio

PEASANT GROUPS YESTERday insisted that a broad agreement that the government has signed with China entailed leasing out farmland to Chinese investors for agri-business ventures, contrary to what agrarian reform and agriculture officials have said.

The Philippine Ecumenical Action for Community Enlightenment Foundation (Peace) said this was contained in two memorandums of agreement covering the development of a total of 1.4 million hectares for crop farming.

"They're making fancy theories, but essentially these are lease agreements," said Steve Quiambao of Peace who furnished the INQUIRER with copies of the MOUs.

According to Quiambao, the agreements were signed without consultation with the farmers.

"Don't they know this is a violation of the Constitution?" he said. He cited Section 16, Article 13, of the Constitution which says that the right of the people and their organizations to effective and and reasonable participation at all levels of decision-making should not be abridged.

The first agreement provides for the development of 1 million hectares of land for hybrid corn, hybrid rice and hybrid sorghum farming, while the other provides for the development of 40,000 hectares for sugarcane and cassava production.

In the first MOU for hybrid corn, hybrid rice and hybrid sorghum farming, the government agreed to lease out the identified land for 25 years to Jilin Fuhua Agricultural Science and Technology Development Co. Ltd.

In the second MOU for cassava and sugarcane farming, the government agreed to facilitate the lease or any other options of the identified land for 25 years to the agricultural department of Guangxi Zuang Autonomous Region.

The documents were signed for the government by Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman and then Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, who is now energy secretary.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, September 7, 2007
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Col 1:15-20
Gospel: Luke 5:33-39

The scribes and Pharisees asked Jesus, "The disciples of John fast often and say long prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees. Why is it that your disciples eat and drink?" Then Jesus said to them, "You can't make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them. But later the bridegroom will be taken from them and they will fast in those days."

Jesus also told them this parable, "No one tears a piece from a new coat to put it on an old one; otherwise the new will be torn and the piece taken from the new will not match the old. No one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed as well. But new wine must be put into fresh skins. Yet no one who has tasted old wine is eager to get new wine, but says: The old is good."

Commentary

Christ is the image of the invisible God—we could pray with that forever. Christ is in all things—the holiness and power of God in a human person. Jesus' main work and mission was to reconcile us to one another in God the Father. He has made peace among us and with us by obedience to God's Word and his cross—the symbol of our being made one with God. Our God dwells with us in Jesus—in Word, Bread, the poor, the Spirit—and so there is a time to fast and a time to rejoice in God's nearness. Are we new garments and new wine—shelter and food, life for the world? We need to examine ourselves on the quality and the depth of our relationship to Christ the image of the invisible Holy One.

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The Isabela I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ISELCO I) wishes to invite interested suppliers for Public Bidding for the Supply/Delivery and Rewind/Repair of the following:

PARTICULARS	QUANTITY
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b) Service Drop Wire, Duplex #6 ACSR, 6/1 Local Brands	50,000 meters
c) Socket Base, Ring Type, 100 Amp, Two 1" hub, 4 jaws	1,000 pcs.
d) Rewind/Repair & Commissioning of 400 kVA, three phase, 460 Volt generator Weight: 3 tons Note for item d: Site Inspection at Mini-Hydro, Villa Beltran, Ramon	1 unit
e) Line Fuselink, Universal Button Head Type K, 2-4-6-8-10-12-15-20-25-30 Amp. Brand: HUBBEL - A B CHANCE, S & C	200 pcs. each
f) Transformer Oil Brand: HIRAX	20 drums
g) Transformer, Pole Type, Conventional 25 kVA	5 units
h) Transformer, Pole Type, Conventional 37.5 kVA	5 units
i) Transformer, Poly Type, Conventional 50 kVA	5 units
j) Transformer, Pole Type, Conventional, 75 kVA Specification for item g to j: Conventional Distribution Transformer (Brand New) Copper (Primary) to Copper (Secondary), Silicon, Steel Core with Tap Changer, Insulation Class A, Primary Voltage 7.620/13.2 Y KV. Brand: WAGNER	5 units
k) Insulator Pin Type (Double Groove) 55-5	400 pcs.
l) Cut-out with Arrester Combination Brand new Brand: HUBBEL - A B CHANCE	50 sets
m) 3 Bolt Clamp Guy HD	200 pcs.
n) Eye Nut 5/8	300 pcs.
o) Swinging Clevis Service	250 pcs.
p) Shackle Anchor	200 pcs.
q) Spool Insulator 1 ¾	250 pcs.
r) Clamp Loop Deadend	250 pcs.
s) Eye Bolt Oval 5/8x8	200 pcs.
t) Conductor Bare Wire #2 ACSR (Local Brands)	10,000 mtrs.
u) Insulated Wire #2 (Local Brands)	5,000 mtrs.
v) Copper Wire 5 mm	500 mtrs.
w) Connector Compression YHO 100	200 pcs.
x) Connector Compression YHO 150	200 pcs.
y) Connector Compression YHO 200	200 pcs.
z) Hot Line Clamp	200 pcs.
aa) Oil Purification & Degasification of 5MVA Substation Power Transformer at Reina Mercedes, Isabela Note for item cc: Contractor shall provide their own generator for three-phase electricity supply	

Interested parties may secure bid documents and checklist of qualification requirements at the office of the PBAC Secretary at the Finance Manager's Office and look for Ms. Leah Garcia or call Tel. No. (078) 6627917 or call Engr. Romeo M. Villacampa at Cel. No. 09189226973.

The schedules of bidding activities are as follows:

PARTICULARS	DATE/TIME
Issuance of bid documents/checklist of qualification requirements	September 07 - September 20, 2007 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Pre-Qualification Conference	September 21, 2007 / 9:00 AM
Submission / Opening of Bids	September 21, 2007 / 1:00 PM

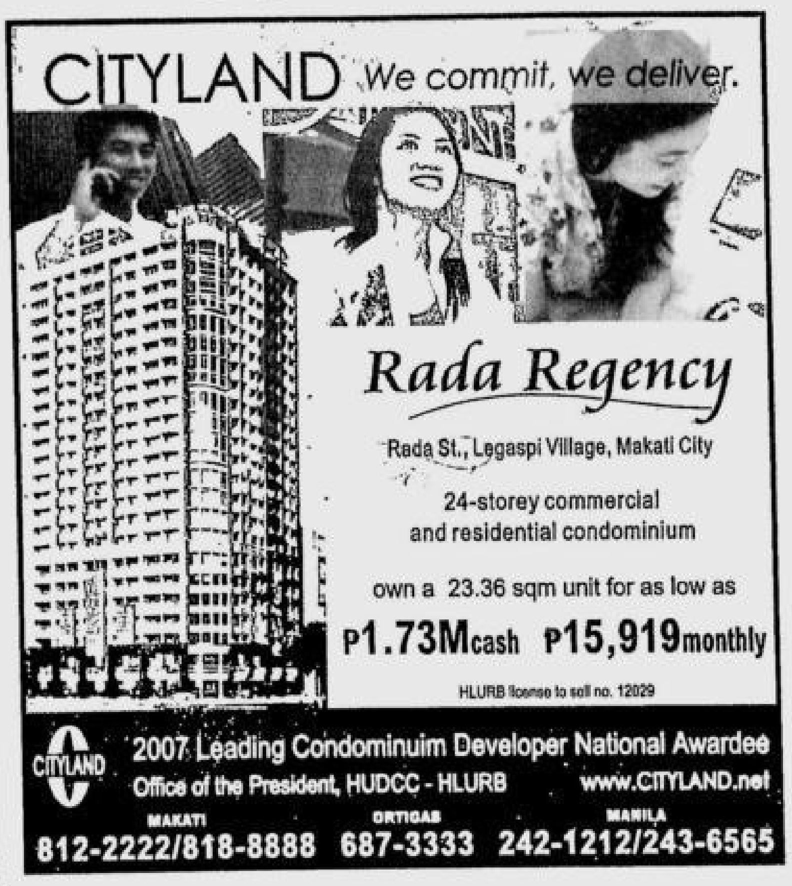
Checklist of Qualification Requirements are the following. (to be submitted during the pre-qualification conference)

1) Non-refundable filing fee in the amount of Three Thousand Pesos Only (P3,000.00) in the form of cash.
2) Complete set of legal documents of the company, SEC Registration, Articles of Incorporation and by-laws, company profile, business registration and license papers.
3) Audited Financial Statement (Balance Sheet and Income Statement) duly filed/stamped received by BIR.
4) If represented by an agent of the firm, it must have a letter of Authorization from the President/Manager or Owner.
5) A Bid Bond amounting to 10% of the total amount of material and service requirements

The ISELCO I reserves the right to reject any or all bids for valid and justified reason, waive any defect thereon and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the cooperative (ISELCO I). ISELCO I likewise assume no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made

(Sgd.) Mr. Orlando B. Ramil
PBAC Chairman

(PDI—Sept. 5, 6 & 7, 2007)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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply & Installation of Wireless WiFi IP Camera Security System at the Cavite Economic Zone
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1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2007 intends to apply the sum of **Php 385,000.00** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply & Installation of Wireless WiFi IP Security Camera System at the Cavite Economic Zone (CEZ).** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PEZA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the following GOODS which shall be awarded to a single supplier/contractor:

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CPU for DVR System	1 unit
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The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass eligibility check will be opened. The process of the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Prospective bidders must have a minimum of five (5) years experience in the supply and installation of security cameras and should have experience in undertaking a single similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC.
5. In addition, bidders must have filed their latest annual income and business tax returns (VAT and/or Percentage Taxes covering six (6) months immediately prior to the submission of bids) via the Electronic Filing and Payment System (eFPS) of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.
6. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the PEZA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.
7. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be inspected and/or purchased by interested Bidders from 07-17 September 2007, Mondays to Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos Only (P1,000.00) and submission of a certified copy of their Phil-GEPS Registration Certificate. The method of payment will be cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
8. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 20 September 2007, 2:00 P.M. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
9. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 02 October 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than *1% of the ABC.* Late Bids shall not be accepted.
10. Bid opening shall be on 02 October 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Bldg. Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
11. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
12. The PEZA reserves the right to accept any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. No. 891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-9587
E-mail: **peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com**
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Now, it's aircraft from China

AIR FORCE HELICOPTERS made in China?

Why not, says the Philippine Air Force, as it dispatched this week a team of PAF pilots to China to evaluate some aircraft being offered for sale by a Chinese manufacturer that has partnered with a French company.

The delegation was led by Maj. Gen. Pedro Ike Insierto, a Huey pilot who heads the PAF's modernization office, said an Air Force official.

The team will be conducting test flights on the Chinese-made aircraft, said the official who requested anonymity for lack of authority to speak.

Sign of times

The official said the PAF's openness to buying Chinese aircraft was merely a "sign of the times," noting China's growing reputation as an industrialized country.

"They made an offer, so why not listen to them?" the official said, while stressing that the United States remains the Philippines' main mutual defense partner.

The PAF delegation's trip coincides with the five-day visit here this week of China's Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan.

It also comes amid worldwide alarm caused by large-scale recall of Chinese-made toys, toothpaste, candies, dog food, medicine and agricultural produce because of concerns over harmful chemicals in these products.

The official said this was not the first time Chinese firms had offered their products to the Armed Forces.

"They tried to sell pistols, handguns, rifles and ammunition before," the official said.

Commercial offer

He described the Chinese offer of aircraft as a "commercial offer" that would have to go through PAF bidding procedures.

Reuters reported on Wednesday that China had offered to sell eight utility helicopters to the Philippines' Armed Forces which is seeking to replace its Vietnam War-era aircraft.

A Philippine Air Force officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters that Beijing had invited the PAF to evaluate its tear-shaped Z9 series utility helicopters manufactured by Harbin Aircraft Manufacturing Co.

On Monday, following a meeting with Cao, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro announced a Chinese grant of P90 million worth of equipment to the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Reuters said the grant would consist of nonlethal military equipment, including bulldozers and dump trucks for development projects in insurgency areas.

Nikko Dizon

45 years

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Left to Right: Mr. Antonio S. Abacan, Jr. Chairman, Metrobank and Adviser, Metrobank Foundation, Inc., Mr. Aniceto M. Sobrepeña President, Metrobank Foundation, Inc (ELEMENTARY LEVEL) Jeneluj C. Cunanan, Fredo T. Laureles, Madeline P. Rivera, Leticia N. Palle (SECONDARY LEVEL) Cynthia B. Bangero, Norma C. Pacaigue, Ruben L. Abucayon, Ph.D., Glendale B. Lamiseria (HIGHER EDUCATION LEVEL) Caesar A. Saloma, Ph.D., Benilda S. Santos, Ph.D.

Higher Education level

BENILDA S. SANTOS, Ph.D.

Santos' devotion to teaching of Filipino language and literature, and her collection of published works, constitute her greatest contributions to education. Her passion for teaching is kept alive by her love of country and deep appreciation of Philippine culture, traits she tries to impart to her students at every opportunity for almost 30 years.

CAESAR A. SALOMA, Ph.D.

Saloma contends that the continued success of the scientific enterprise to shape human civilization depends greatly on the capacity of mentors to train the next generation of productive scientists. As the only Filipino and ASEAN scientist to have received the prestigious Galileo Galilei Awards, his achievements should encourage the next generation of scientists in the difficult but vital task of developing a scientific tradition in the country.

Secondary level

GLENDALE B. LAMISERIA

Lamiseria lives for "the joy of the classroom", and her innovative teaching strategies successfully integrate entrepreneurship skills in outreach activities that allow students to get involved in projects that benefit out-of-school youth. Aside from making math concepts easier to learn and appreciate, her teaching methods make education fun and relevant.

RUBEN L. ABUCAYON, Ph.D.

Rather than teaching in order to live, Abucayon emphasizes that he lives in order to teach. His inspired contributions to the enhancement of science education over the past 14 years include an award-winning Strategic Intervention Material.

NORMA C. PACAIGUE

Pacaigue believes that teaching is a fulfillment of a mission that she received from God After 38 years in the profession, she remains enthusiastic in her work as she inculcates the passion for life-long learning among her students.

CYNTHIA B. BANGERO

Bangero's competence and skills complemented by her positive influence and admirable values are best remembered by her students. In her 26 years as a teacher, she imparts to her students the knowledge and skills to succeed with the strength of character to live meaningful lives.

Elementary level

FREDO T. LAURELES

Laureles has made pioneering contributions in the establishment of a Work Education Program at the Ateneo Grade School. Over the last 36 years, he has written books in industrial arts and authored numerous literary pieces which he uses in various outreach activities for streetchildren and indigenous communities in Mindoro.

MADELINE P. RIVERA

Rivera finds fulfillment in the numerous successes of students she has successfully mentored in her 18 years of teaching. A sought after trainer and adviser, she makes herself an example of discipline, diligence, perseverance, and hard work

JENELUJ C. CUNANAN

Cunanan received the best training at home and the inspiration to eventually pursue a career in teaching from her parents who were both educators. She regards her profession as a mission with the opportunity to touch the lives of students entrusted to her care.

LETICIA N. PALLE

Palle uses homegrown methodologies and techniques to make mathematical concepts easier to understand – such as music, games, and even the outdoors - to impress upon her students better appreciation of the subject.

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Spit it out

EDITORIAL

FORMER SOCIOECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETARY Romulo Neri is caught between the proverbial rock and a hard place. Or, perhaps more precisely, between the forbidding mountain of official loyalty and the Great Wall of personal conscience.

In media interviews he did not seek, answering questions he wished to avoid, Neri has suggested that something unusual took place in relation to the controversial $330-million contract, awarded to the Chinese firm ZTE, to create a National Broadband Network.

As the days drag on, and more details emerge, the controversy over the ZTE contract deepens. One of those details involves the alleged offer, to Neri, of a P200-million bribe. Asked on radio about it, Neri did not issue an outright denial—of the bribe offer, that is. Tellingly, he only said he was not the kind of person who accepted bribes. "I can't do that. It will be [on] my conscience and I believe in bad karma."

But did such an offer actually take place? "It's really difficult for me to say yes or no," he said. "It's difficult to prove either way."

Now this is interesting. Neri is no technocratic babe in this country's overgrown political woods; he has served as budget secretary and, in Congress, as chief budget planning officer. He is no stranger to the stratagems of wily politicians. Surely he knows—in the depths of his conscience, where his belief in karma rests—when and whether a bribe is being offered or not.

We can understand his hesitation about **proving** a claim of bribery. The issue may well go down to his word against that of another official (whether of the Philippine government or the Chinese firm, we do not yet know for certain). That will be difficult to prove. But we cannot sympathize with his alleged difficulty in judging whether a bribe had in fact been offered or not.

Even if he was unsure then, surely the details that have emerged since now tell him that something was definitely amiss.

There is a good reason why Neri is being sought for his comments. The Neda board he headed approved the controversial plan to create yet another multibillion-peso information-technology infrastructure for the government.

The NBN initiative, as approved, called for a build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme, which would not cost the government a single centavo. At one meeting with Chinese officials, he recalled the other day, he "clarified that this is the position of government at the time—no guarantee, no loan. It was shown in the Neda board minutes."

One of the inglorious mysteries of the NBN scandal, however, involves the sudden metamorphosis of the initiative from a BOT project to a government program funded by a government-sourced loan. How did this happen? "It's the DOTC that should answer," Neri said.

This suggests that his answer to the question of whether a bribe was in fact offered to him—"It's really difficult for me to say yes or no. It's difficult to prove either way"—is a calibrated response. It is meant to negotiate that difficult passage between two impossible masters, to please both the requirements of official loyalty and the demands of personal conscience.

In this light, his repeated references during the interviews to Executive Order 464, which he says requires the President to sign off on his appearance before a legislative inquiry into the ZTE contract, seem to us to be a plea for help. He wants to be given permission to say what he knows.

To that, we say: Say what you know, with or without permission. When the bribe offer took place, turning it down was a triumph of personal conscience; not talking about it, or perhaps privately bringing it to the attention of higher officials, was an exercise in official loyalty.

Now that the sordid details of the ZTE contract have started to emerge, however, the dictates of conscience have changed. Now that the very thing Neri and other government officials loyal to the people wanted to avoid, namely the imposition of yet another corruption-swollen debt on the government to fund what has become a questionable project, has become reality, the dictates of conscience require Neri to tell us, even at the cost of breaking his oath of loyalty to the administration, what he really knows.

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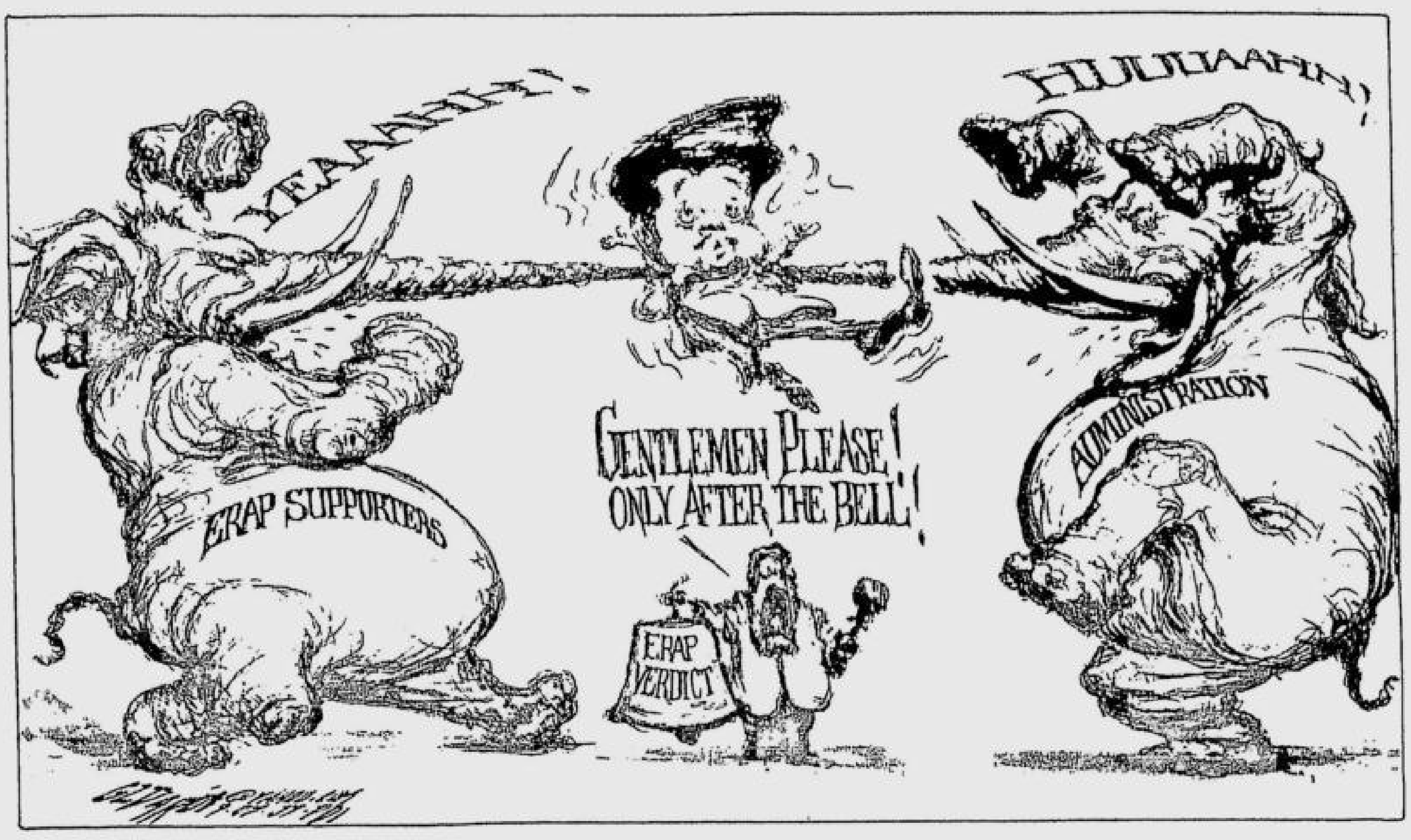
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The evils of cross-ownership in power industry (2)

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

(Continued from Sept. 5)

THE PREVIOUS COLUMN DWELT ON PROposals to amend the Epira law (endorsed by President Macapagal-Arroyo) because instead of reducing power rates, which was its original intent, it resulted in even higher rates and, in the future, even a worse situation. One of the major flaws of Epira was in allowing cross-ownership of corporations in the power industry.

The previous column discussed three of the five evils of cross-ownership: (1) it resulted in higher power rates; (2) it subverts the development of the power generation sector; and (3) it will cause billions of pesos in losses to the government. This column dwells on the last two evils.

Evil No. 4: It corrupts and impedes good governance. Cross-ownership breeds an enormous monopoly in both generation and distribution sectors that will overpower the regulatory agencies, energy policy, and, worst, control politics in the country.

An analysis of the present composition of the Senate is not very encouraging. Seasoned political analysts agree that the Lopez empire's influence in the Senate is formidable. It also holds a significant sway in the House of Representatives. It owns and maintains a formidable media machinery that can make or unmake a politician seeking national office like a seat in the Senate, the vice presidency, or the presidency.

Already, even while the committee assignments in the Senate were still being worked out, Sen. Joker Arroyo publicly declared that "there is no need to amend the Epira." He said only the Joint Congressional Power Council (JCPC) "is needed to do the job."

Such a premature declaration dismissing the "urgent need" to amend one of the most abusive and flawed pieces of legislation ever passed by any Congress in the republic bodes ill for all consumers. To understand Arroyo better, it was during his watch as executive secretary of President Corazon Aquino that Meralco was turned over to the Lopezes lock, stock and barrel with nary an audit and evaluation of what the Lopezes ought to have been given back. A franchise area far bigger than the original franchise of Meralco was given to the Lopezes. They got more than what should have been given back to them and what they did not own at all.

The evils of patronage politics and the power and influence of money and a media machine certainly aggravate the culture of corruption in the country. It also makes the task of amending Epira a daunting effort.

Evil No. 5: Electricity will continue to be overpriced and abuse of consumers will remain unchecked. The accompanying disinformation campaigns that this behemoth can launch to protect its interest or hide abuse from the unsuspecting public results in a misinformed public, very susceptible to abuse.

Today, the Philippines' power rates are among the most uncompetitive in Asia, thus affecting our country's industrial and commercial performance. Tens of millions of dependents of overseas Filipino workers see their hard-earned remittances eroded by the high electric rates. No matter how hard our people work, a huge amount of their income is eaten up by skyrocketing electricity rates. Now is our chance to excise an evil in our system to give our people some measure of relief from already difficult times.

Completely banning cross-ownership between power distributors and generators is not only urgent but a matter of national survival. We cannot afford its evils.

* * *

Speaking of another administration senator, Miriam Defensor-Santiago has been endorsed by the Philippine government to a seat in the prestigious International Court of Justice (ICJ) based in The Hague. It is one of those rare decisions that have the support of our legal community even if there is a joke going the rounds that says, "If it would get her out of the Senate and the Philippines, by all means let's support her appointment to the ICJ."

Santiago was not nominated to the ICJ by President Arroyo. GMA merely acted on a recommendation of a search committee called the National Group to Nominate the Philippine Candidate for the ICJ and composed of independent-minded individuals who do not necessarily kowtow to Palace whims. It was composed of maverick Supreme Court Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, former Integrated Bar of the Philippines president Jose Vicente Salazar, former Supreme Court Justice Florentino Feliciano and former Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo.

The search committee, in turn, went to the legal community to ask for nominees. The Supreme Court's nomination is a requirement of the ICJ. Most major associations in the legal community, including the IBP, submitted their nominations.

The view is that the candidate must be among the top legal minds of the nominating country. And based on that criteria alone, our legal community had only one nominee: Miriam Defensor-Santiago. Even Chief Justice Reynato Puno had only one name in mind: Santiago.

Winning the ICJ seat is an uphill battle both for Santiago and the Philippines, however. While we may get the support of Asean and Asian countries for the ICJ seat that will be vacated by Jordan in 2009, the Jordanian representative just might run for reelection. And she is reportedly the present ICJ vice president, making it a major challenge to go up against her.

But if Santiago wins that seat, it would be a gain both for the Philippines and the ICJ.

By all means, respect privacy—but whose?

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S SENATE allies want to block the Garci investigation because to play the infamous tapes will "violat[e] the civil rights of Mrs. Arroyo." Why, even President Arroyo's own partisans now recognize her voice on the tapes! And now they threaten to "pursue a restraining order by going to the Supreme Court." Ah, finally, now we will even get the highest court of the land to confirm it. How I wish they make good on that threat.

Ms Arroyo's allies are caught between two contradictory positions: "No, that wasn't Gloria speaking on the purloined tapes, but you can't play them because Gloria didn't consent to the wiretap when she spoke." As the proverb goes, they want to eat their cake, and eat yours too.

Let us look at the language of the Anti-Wiretapping Law, RA 4200. Any tape "obtained or secured . . . in violation of the preceding sections of this Act" is inadmissible in any proceeding. Those "preceding sections" say: "It shall be unlawful for any person, **not being authorized by all the parties to any private communication** ..., to tap any wire or cable [or] to secretly overhear, intercept, or record such communication ...."

One scenario is that neither "Ma'am" nor "Garci" fesses up. Sen. Panfilo Lacson moves to have the tapes played, and Arroyo partisans object on the basis that the parties hadn't authorized the wiretap. How they will prove that, I have no idea. They are invoking the rights of two phantom figures, who have voices but no names other than aliases. Ma'am and Garci must step forward to say that they did not authorize the recording.

The only conceivable way is to establish a legal presumption, and shift the onus to the proponent. In other words, the pro-GMA block will say, "If you want to play the tapes, first you must show that both Ma'am and Garci authorized the wiretap." Wrong. It's the other way around, guys. Evidence is admissible unless irrelevant and incompetent. If you wish to exclude evidence, it falls upon you to object and show why it should be excluded, in this case, because the parties didn't consent to the eavesdropping.

Perhaps, I can imagine, a court will presume otherwise—in other words, assume that there was no consent—only if the bugged conversation was so obviously private, say, a romantic exchange of sweet nothings between two people head over heels in love. After all, that is what lies at the heart of the right to privacy, the right "to be let alone" insulated in a zone off-limits to the officious and the interloper. But the Garci tapes have been played before the Congress—and indeed by Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye—and what we heard was about election fixing, which strikes at the heart of democratic governance.

Indeed, recall the scope of the Anti-Wiretapping Law: "any private communication." Garci and Ma'am had to talk in secret because what they were doing was illegal. By no stretch of the imagination can anyone describe that conversation as "private."

Of course, it will be argued that this puts the cart before the horse. How can we know what they discussed unless first we eavesdropped? But, here again we are trapped by history. The fact is that both Bunye—the President's alter ego, her "second self," or "the other I"—and Congress, during the hearings chaired by Rep. Gilbert Remulla, have heard the tapes, which were broadcast live over ANC. Again, I suppose a court might be stricter had the tapes revealed nothing more than a verbal tryst, but will allow the bootstrapping in this case because of the countervailing right to information on matters of public concern.

Finally, assuming, as GMA's allies contend, that GMA's right to privacy is at stake here, can that right be invoked for her in absentia by others? Can strangers not party to a conversation assert the parties' right to privacy? If we allow the senators to assert the constitutional rights of a third party, do we not impliedly allow them as well to waive those rights? Isn't that a rather dangerous precedent? Again, I recognize exceptions where the party is too infirm to assert its rights.

The other scenario is that former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano is summoned to the Senate, steps forward, admits that he is Garci, and declares that he hadn't authorized the wiretap. As in a chess game, sacrifice a pawn to save the queen. After all, all it takes to block the tapes under RA 4200 is even for just one party to the conversation to withhold consent, assuming, of course, that theirs was a "private"—not public—communication.

Finally, this reading is fully in keeping with a US case cited rather prominently during the initial skirmish on the Senate floor, Bartnicki v. Vopper. What was bugged was a cell-phone conversation between school union officers about on-going labor negotiations, during which acts to intimidate recalcitrant school board members were discussed. An unknown person intercepted the call, and left the tape in the mailbox of a local radio station, which played the tapes. When the station was later sued for damages (not for the purpose of prior restraint, mind you), the US Supreme Court said that the "negotiations in question were a matter of public concern" and "privacy concerns g[i]ve way when balanced against the interest in publishing matters of public importance." Two justices, Breyer and O'Connor, used the term "a matter of unusual public concern."

The Constitution protects the right to privacy—and the Anti-Wiretapping Law limits its protection to "private communications"—but also speaks of the right to "information on matters of public concern." Here we face no agony over first principles. Let the Garci tapes be played.

End of boom-and-bust cycle?

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE GOVERNMENT REPORT THAT THE GROSS domestic product (GDP) grew 7.5 percent in the second quarter of 2007, relative to the second quarter of 2006, was greeted with disbelief by the general public and political quarters. It was also met with guarded optimism by economists and local businessmen as well as foreign risk-assessment analysts.

The growth topped the 7.1 percent in the first quarter of 2007. It was the highest growth achieved by the economy in the last 20 years. According to Bloomberg News survey, it was the third fastest among six Southeast Asian economies, after Singapore and Vietnam.

The skepticism of the public and political sector stems from the credibility problems of President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration and reflects its rock-bottom trust and confidence rating in public opinion polls. It is at variance with the view of the business community and economists who are inclined at least to take the government's claim seriously.

These two contrasting views draw a relief map of the different perspectives from which the political sector and the business sector assess developments in the economy. Of the two perspectives, the political view appears to have stronger influence on public opinion, whose volatility reflects the instability of the political crises that have rocked the administration during the past six years.

The growth figures released by the government prompted President Arroyo to claim that the end of the recurrent boom-and-bust cycle that has put the economy on a tailspin since the 1970s is in sight. She said that based on the 7.5-percent growth in the second quarter of 2007, she expected the economy to achieve the growth target of 6.1 percent to 6.2 percent this year.

"Ours is the only administration that has not experienced any negative growth in any quarter," the President pointed out. "And it has been a six-year administration, so it has been sustained. In fact, we should have gone through two boom-and-bust cycles by now, but we never did."

At first glance, this is correct from her perspective, but some economists quickly asked: Is this short-term gain a fluke? Is it sustainable?

Its sustainability is one of the main issues from which the President's optimistic claim has been attacked. It is the most credible line of attack because it is well-informed and does not come from partisan political quarters. The claim has also been attacked on the grounds that the government figures may have been based on "doctored" and self-serving data, and from the perspective that growth had not filtered down to alleviate poverty and benefit the poor masses.

The last two modes of attack do not help illuminate the issue of sustainability, since they represent knee-jerk reactions that raise more questions than offer evidence of tampering with statistics or of questionable methodology in the interpretation of data. The filter-down aspect of growth has also long been a conventional critique of growth. This critique usually comes from the Left and even elitist politicians, including those with populist pretensions, as a cheap shot to discredit those who are in power.

The 2006 and the 2007 first semester economic expansion took place in a period of relatively less turbulence than the crises-wracked years from 2001, when Malacañang was stormed by a mob of followers of deposed President Joseph Estrada, up to 2005, when the administration was rocked by a wave of public protests churned up by the Garcillano tapes scandal alleging rigging of the 2004 presidential election.

The 2006 and 2007 growth surge occurred in a period of relative political stability, giving rise to questions whether the political milieu had something to do with the robust growth, although modest growth did take place from 2001 to 2004.

Indeed, the 2005 crisis did not shoot down growth, and it would seem that the economy was impervious to the political turbulence. Economists raising the issue of the sustainability of high growth and of the end of the boom-and-bust cycle have come up with evidence that politics has something to do with the expansion during the past 18 months. During that period, an election has been held, establishing the control of the administration over the House of Representatives and a second impeachment attempt was quashed in 2006.

In its briefings, the National Economic and Development Authority attributed the growth in 2006 to higher personal consumption due to a slowdown in inflation and increase in remittances from overseas Filipino workers. Government statistics point to the 33 percent growth in the mining sectors in the second quarter of 2007, though mining accounted for only 2 percent of the total economic output. The service sector grew 8.4 percent in the second quarter of 2007, compared to 6.7 percent in the second quarter the year before. But these gains were undermined by slow growth in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors, and the sharp drop in imports.

Augusto Santos, the acting secretary of socioeconomic planning, has admitted that expenditures related to the May 2007 elections may have been a factor in the second quarter growth. Earlier in 2004, an election year, it was pointed out the economy unexpectedly grew by 6.1 percent, compared to less than 5 percent in 2003. The government invested heavily in public infrastructure, roads, bridges, airports and seaports spending 39.6 percent more this year than in 2006.

The election expenditure factor is seasonal. Its contribution to the growth surge reinforces skepticism over the sustainability of the robust growth.

How the law is applied here

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ON ANY GIVEN NIGHT, GIVEN ANY FLIMSY EXcuse, police will swoop down on an urban poor community, round up all the men, force them to stand in line and then strip down to their underwear, the better for the authorities to spot those bearing tattoos and other gang insignia, and then haul them off to the police precinct.

True, such *sonas*," borrowed from the term popularized during the Japanese occupation when such midnight raids were common, are sometimes covered by TV news stations, more for their sensational footage than public interest ramifications, I suspect. But for the most part, public reaction is confined to dismay and mild alarm, and while the families of the men unceremoniously arrested—without warrant or charges—cry buckets and fear for the men's safety, the good citizens of the land shrug their shoulders and may even tell themselves: "Well, at least the police are protecting us from the riff-raff."

But let the police try the same thing in a middle-class village or an upper-class home, and you can expect a chorus of protestations, with lawyers and family crying "human rights violation" and "police brutality."

Such is justice in our land, where the application of the law is influenced by one's socio-economic status, the prominence of one's friends and law firm, and even the nature of the crime. Some years back, scions of prominent families engaged in a shoot-out in the Greenhills area where a policeman was wounded, if I remember right. No one was even brought in for questioning, and while the police chief made threatening noises, no charges were even filed. Some days later, rival gangs in Navotas engaged in a brawl and the police swooped in and arrested everyone, no questions asked.

* * *

WE see such disparities at work today.

A promising student of UP Diliman, about to graduate from his undergraduate course and planning to enter law school, is brought to a hospital "dead on arrival," with bruises all over his body. Authorities suspect he died in the course of a fraternity hazing, mainly because the victim told friends he was going to one that day, and because the doctor who brought his body to the hospital (and immediately fled the scene) has a son who belongs to the suspect fraternity.

Everyone, including the family of Cris Anthony Mendez, the fatality, keeps quiet at first, but with increasing media attention and the collective anger of university authorities and students, police are forced to respond. The NBI "invites" several people to shed light on the death of Mendez. But, save for the doctor at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center who attended to Mendez, everyone else treats the NBI summons like it was an invitation to a tea party. Dr. Francisco Cruz Jr., the hospital official who drove a dead Mendez to the hospital, demurs and sends his lawyer and promises to submit an affidavit later. Two members of the Sigma Rho Fraternity, a UP College of Law frat which counts several politicians and officials as alumni, don't even bother to send a representative.

Meanwhile, the harshest punishment meted out so far to anyone suspected of involvement in Mendez's death has been the stripping of Ariel Paolo Ante, another Sigma Rhoan who reportedly recruited Mendez, of his post as student council president of the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance. Ante is censured for his failure "to exercise principled and moral leadership," but he must consider that small potatoes, considering that he and his brods face charges for the death of a young man who had entrusted his life to their tender mercies.

* * *

AND speaking of skewed justice, what about Willie Revillame and his home station, ABS-CBN?

Just weeks after his removal from the list of those indicted for the Ultra tragedy, where 70 people, most of them women, died in a stampede of those eager to gain entry to the anniversary celebration of Revillame's noontime game show "Wowowee," here was Revillame on TV once again indicting himself with a "technical glitch" on his "Willyonaryo" game segment.

The mechanics of the game and the "glitch" are too complicated to get into here. (You can watch the incident on YouTube if you're so inclined.) Suffice it to say that Revillame and his network were sufficiently embarrassed to issue a string of clarifications and apologies.

But to demonstrate the personalistic nature of our society, what catapulted the incident to headlines were not the charges of possible rigging of a TV game show, but the exchange of tearful admonitions and angry recriminations between Revillame and a host of a rival show, Joey de Leon of "Eat Bulaga," aired on GMA-7.

After De Leon made snide, but anonymous, remarks about "cheating" on other shows, Revillame devoted a huge segment of his show the next day to castigate De Leon for his harsh words, footage which made it to the evening news of Channel 2 that day.

The next day, "Wowowee" hosted a show for the families of the Marines slain in Basilan and for other military personnel. But even the tear-soaked proceedings could not make the public forget the "technical glitch" that made some people suspect game shows are not the games of chance they claim to be.

Official reaction so far has been limited to public threats of a Senate investigation into the conduct of game shows and a belated inquiry by the Department of Trade, which has jurisdiction over such matters. Most laughingly, the chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, which governs the contents and ratings of TV shows, tried to put an end to the controversy by her "motherly" counseling of the two hosts to end their word war.

This makes me wonder if the MTRCB chair sees herself as primarily a counselor for TV hosts rather than a regulator out to protect the public interest.

Lost books

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

JESSICA ZAFRA, WHO HAS AN UNCANNY knack for finding the most engaging books in the most obscure places or bargain bins, gifted me with "The Book of Lost Books: An Incomplete History of All the Great Books You'll Never Read" by Stuart Kelly (Random House, 2003). Heck, it's another way to enlarge my stock of useless information, but it was quite a treat to know that there is more to great authors, from Homer and Ovid to Hemingway and Dylan Thomas, than we know about or were forced to read in school.

Authors have been known to lose or destroy their own manuscripts. Sometimes they get help from fire, flood, termites and the most destructive of all, fellow humans. Then we have the destruction of great libraries, from the legendary one in Alexandria to medieval scriptoriums ransacked by barbarians.

In our own time and place we have seen much the same happen. The Philippine Library and Museum that boasted the finest collection of Filipiniana in its time was one of the casualties of the Battle for Manila in 1945. The late historian Teodoro Agoncillo related how he had packed his most important books and brought them to the University of the Philippines Library at the outbreak of the war, assuming that the enemy would respect an academic institution. Many other scholars and collectors, like Jaime C. de Veyra and E. Arsenio Manuel, felt the same way and deposited their precious libraries in UP, only to watch helplessly as the Japanese made a bonfire from their books. You have to be a researcher to get an idea of what was lost during the war.

Over a decade ago, when I was researching in the Great Reading Room of the British Library in Bloomsbury, London, I requested a rare 17th-century pamphlet on the Philippines and was told that it could not be located. I requested the same item thrice that day and got the same result, so I sought out a supervising librarian and inquired why it could not be found. She looked through her records and declared, "Well, Mr. Ocampo, I'm afraid you will have to blame the Germans for the loss of this item."

I didn't quite understand what she meant, so she explained, "London was bombed in 1944, a section of the British Library was hit and one of the casualties of that bombing is the book you need."

If the book does not exist, I asked, why keep it in the card catalogue? Can't you at least strike it off or mark it as such? Smiling, the librarian replied, "That's just it, you have to blame the Germans during the war for destroying the book you need today."

When I related the above to some friends, I was told a story, probably apocryphal, that there was an unwritten agreement between the British and the Germans regarding air raids. While maximum death and destruction was the object of the game, it was said that the Germans agreed to spare Oxford and Cambridge from air raids and in exchange the British were to spare Heidelberg and Tübingen.

If the story is true, it would show that in the midst of the last great war, these four great university towns were saved. Was it because the commanders were alumni of these universities, or did they, despite the war, retain respect for academic institutions?

Manila was an open city, the University of the Philippines campus on Padre Faura was obviously an academic institution, but its library went up in smoke. Some great Philippine books we will never read.

I remember going over the "Florante at Laura" in high school and being told that the great Francisco Baltazar better known as "Balagtas" learned the craft of rhyme from a village bard, "Huseng Sisiw," so-called because he charged a chick per verse. Where are the lost works of Huseng Sisiw?

Likewise, Balagtas obviously wrote a great deal more than "Florante at Laura." Now required reading in school, could this be his mediocre work? He allegedly filled a whole *baul* (chest) with writings, none of which survived.

Fortunately, another lost work of Balagtas, "Orosman at Zafiro," was recovered by Dr. Buenaventura Medina in recent years. Surely, there is a lot more somewhere.

"Florante at Laura" survived because it was printed in various editions. Jose Rizal himself brought a copy with him to Europe. But even if the printed text had gone out of print, some people like Apolinario Mabini memorized the whole work. While Mabini was in exile in Guam, he wrote out, from memory, the entire "Florante at Laura" and presented the manuscript to an American who inquired if Filipinos had literature.

In my own area of expertise, I have recovered the draft of Rizal's third novel after "El Filibusterismo" and placed it in the canon as "Makamisa," a work he began in Tagalog and later tried to continue in Spanish. There are other missing Rizal works, like a manuscript study on the *sakhit latar* or *mali-mali* that was believed to have been written in Dapitan together with his treatise on the *mangkukulam*. I have also been told that Paciano Rizal translated "Noli Me Tangere" from the original Spanish into Tagalog, that his brother Jose corrected this, and that the unpublished manuscript was last seen in Paciano's Los Baños home before the war. It is the lost definitive Tagalog translation of the "Noli."

A literary historian going through the writers of the 20th century will find not only finished books but also lost great books we will never read.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Light in the dark

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

IT IS NOT AN EASY BOOK TO READ, A COLLECTION OF letters many of which have a literally dark quality, full of spiritual torment, doubt, desolation, even hopelessness. The book, "Come Be My Light," has received much publicity because the letters were written by Mother Teresa, one of the foremost spiritual icons of the 20th century. Yet the letters, written to her spiritual advisers and confidants, show that for nearly 50 years, maybe up to her death, Mother Teresa felt God was not in her life. In her own words, her smile was often "a mask."

It all seems to have started in 1948, when she left her work as a teacher with the Loreto Sisters to work in the streets, taking care of beggars, abandoned children, the sick and the dying. Barely two months after she began her work, she wrote, "What tortures of loneliness. . . I wonder how long will my heart suffer this?"

In the years that followed, she would send off more letters describing her loneliness and her doubt. In 1953, she wrote about "a terrible darkness . . . as if everything was dead." In 1956: "Such deep longing for God—and . . . repulsed—empty—no faith—no love—no zeal." In 1959: "If there be no God—there can be no soul—if there is no soul, then Jesus—You also are not true." Eventually, she began to refer to God in her letters as the "Absent One."

There was a brief respite in Mother Teresa's dark nights in 1958, when Pope Pius XII died and she prayed to the deceased Pope for "proof" that God was pleased with the religious order she had set up, the Missionaries of Charity. In one of her letters, Mother Teresa said that her "darkness," her "strange suffering of 10 years" had disappeared.

The relief lasted five weeks, when she again returned "in the tunnel." In 1959, she asked why there was so much "pain and darkness" in her heart. In 1962, when she won the Ramon Magsaysay Award for International Understanding, she wrote: "This means nothing to me, because I don't have Him." In 1979, three months before receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, she wrote a priest: "Jesus has a very special love for you . . . (but) as for me, the silence and the emptiness is so great, that I look and do not see—Listen and do not hear—the tongue moves (in prayer) but does not speak. . ."

A 1995 letter still has her describing her "spiritual dryness." She died in 1997.

Sainthood

Mother Teresa's extraordinary letters were collected, edited and published by Fr. Brian Kolodiejchuk, who was one of her spiritual advisers and is now her postulator, meaning the main person petitioning for her canonization. Ironically, the letters, filled with spiritual doubt, are intended to support the contention that Mother Teresa is indeed a saint.

All this should make us rethink traditional religiosity—and spirituality. I will admit I was always slightly cynical about Mother Teresa. When she visited the Philippines many years ago, I felt she was too apolitical, applying "band-aid" solutions to poverty and ending up being used by the Marcos conjugal dictatorship.

Her letters now show another side to Mother Teresa, of someone who continued to serve the poor even when she felt God was not in her life. Time's Sept. 3 issue (http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1655415,00.html) offers diverse opinions on Mother Teresa's dark nights. The atheists have had a field day here. Christopher Hitchins, who criticized Mother Teresa in his "The Missionary Position" and who recently published another book, "God is not Great," asserts that Mother Teresa herself probably realized that "religion is a human fabrication."

Newsweek quotes extensively from Dr. Richard Gottlieb of the New York Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, who proposes that Mother Teresa had a very strong personality oriented toward high achievement, and therefore might find ways to punish herself, ironically, as she achieved more. Perhaps she saw this as almost sinful, and had to compensate. She seemed almost fearful of her achievements, perhaps seeing them as a temptation to pride. She in fact wanted her letters destroyed, worried that readers would then focus on her, rather than on Christ.

Reading her letters did make me feel she was shuttling between humility and humiliation.

Even Catholic theologians have their own interpretations of these "dark nights," which have been reported as part of the religious mystical experience. The 16th-century St. John of the Cross introduced the term "dark nights," suffering for many years from this torment but asserting this was part of spiritual growth.

Theologians say there are two types of these dark nights. One is purgative, preparing the contemplative for a final union with Christ, while the other is "reparative," continually returning to emulate Christ's suffering.

The Christian mystics' fixation on suffering could sometimes be morbid, as with the visions of the 19th-century German nun, Anne Emmerich, who put everything in writing, blood, gore and all, and which Mel Gibson transformed into that controversial movie.

Hope and despair

I've wondered if there are more mundane explanations to all of Mother Teresa's dark nights. Could she have been so overwhelmed by the poverty and suffering she saw in the streets of Kolkata (Calcutta)? When she first set out to work with the sick and the dying, she was filled with hope, talking about "the Voice" that instructed her to pursue a new mission. Yet after she started working, despair seemed to descend. Many others have wondered, too, about the existence of God upon seeing the "evil" of poverty.

Religious people like Mother Teresa would have sought refuge, and strength, from prayer and from a sense of divine presence. She did not find this presence, but never turned her back on her ministry.

For the more secular, life can be just as precarious. I wrote about dark nights only last month, a response to all the depressing developments in the Philippines and in the world. What then is there to cling to, except a faith in humanity, wanting to believe people are basically good amid all the corruption and greed we see around us, and that we all have to keep pushing on, doing what's right.

As I said at the beginning of the article, "Come Be My Light" is not easy to read. Maybe after a few more reads, her letters might tell us how to find some light, no matter how briefly, in the long dark nights we all have.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
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Living heroes in health sector

IN THIS SEASON OF RECOGNIZING the living heroes of our time, let us remember our health workers in the hospitals, in the health centers, in the clinics and in the communities all over the country. These silent heroes brave the hazard of being infected by their patients, they brave the hazard of traveling on dangerous roads at night to report for their night-shift duties, and they brave the hazard of being labeled anti-government when they serve those in remote communities.

In some instances, they have to endure harsh words from their patients or from their superiors. And all these they face—day in, day out, every regular working day and during holidays, morning, noon and night.

Most of them have low salaries. Some work as contractuals for indefinite periods of time. Many have left us in search of higher pay, better working conditions and more professional opportunities abroad. Some are forced to stay on because they have no money with which to process their departure. Others are simply not inclined to venture beyond the borders of what is familiar and, probably, safer for them.

There are those who have the means to leave but have opted to continue practicing their profession here, and somehow try to improve the health care delivery system for our people's sake.

Health institutions and communities function effectively because of the contributions of each member to make the system work as a whole unit. We have to promote the dignity of work of each health worker at all levels. We have to promote honesty and respect for each other, regardless of our official position in our institution, be it government or private.

Let us give our heroes due compensation and the appreciation for their efforts to care for the sick and to raise health awareness among our people. These will give them the right reasons to stay and be part of our united effort to improve our country's health for the better.

—VIRGINIA M. SULIT, MD,
virg_sulit@yahoo.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Elizaga's rap denied

PLEASE EXTEND US the courtesy of publishing our brief reply to Elson T. Elizaga's letter. (INQUIRER, 9/3/07)

Elizaga made a very serious allegation that we were commissioned by the local government of Cagayan de Oro to downgrade the Huluga archaeological site. We were not. Normally, in such a situation, a strong response is appropriate.

Elizaga has, however, consistently shown that he does not know what he is talking about. We, therefore, do not take offense.

The public can check all the records at the Cagayan de Oro City Hall, the National Library, the National Museum, the Main Library of the University of the Philippines, and the Archaeological Studies Program Library and ask for the publications and technical reports of our small community of archaeologists.

If we are truly guilty, let the proper charges be filed against us. One can wager Elizaga will not need a lawyer; he seems to think he knows the law well enough to handle his own case. Enough said.

—VICTOR PAZ, Ph.D.,
LEE ANTHONY NERI,
MSc, JUN G. CAYRON,
MA, ANNA JANE
CARLOS, MICHELLE
EUSEBIO, VITO
PAOLO HERNANDEZ,
ANDREA MALAYA M.
RAGRAGIO, EMIL
CHARLES ROBLES,
graduate students,
members of the
UP-Archaeological
Studies Program
Cagayan De Oro
Project,
University of the
Philippines, Diliman,
Quezon City

No Muslim opposition to GK project

IN THE AUG. 28 ISSUE OF THE INQUIRER, Margaux C. Ortiz reported that the Muslim residents of Datu Paglas, Maguindanao were "wary of help from their more fortunate countrymen—especially those who worshipped a God with a different name from theirs."

Ortiz's article missed one important fact: The project isn't a case of spoon-fed, "give-all" dole. (1) Residents donated their counterpart or equity—the site for the housing project; and (2) local residents cleared the area and helped in the quarrying and delivery of filling material and sand and gravel. Had they been allowed to join in the construction work, many would have been more than willing to help.

The Gawad Kalinga (GK) representative then, to whom beneficiaries are very thankful, even acknowledged the intervention of businessman Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas III (the older brother of then Mayor Totoy Paglas) "for donating and allowing Gawad Kalinga to build houses for the poor in Datu Paglas, and for all his support." Like the Christian donors of GK, the Muslim providers of the site also do not wish to be identified because they do not want to let the "left hand see what the right doeth" (in doing charity), as taught by both Jesus and Prophet Muhammad.

True faith isn't measured by poverty or fortune; neither does it depend on the believer's way of calling the Creator's name: Remember that God's people (Israel) were poor and oppressed by the "more fortunate" unbelievers in the times of Moses and Jesus. Wasn't it Jesus who said that it would be "more difficult for a rich man to enter Paradise than for the camel to pass through the eye of the needle"? "Man does not live by bread alone, but by his faith," and as Matthew's Gospel says, "Blessed are the poor for theirs is the Kingdom of God."

Understandably, it is the donors' faith that keeps them pouring charity into the laudable GK endeavor, and they don't want to be identified. There have been similar programs by Muslim charitable institutions funded by zakat (charity out of one's lawful earnings) abroad for the war victims in southern Philippines and in former Yugoslavia. But things changed when many of those humanitarian organizations were implicated by security institutions in terrorism, which Muslims (too) keep condemning.

As far as we know, there has never been a sign of Muslim opposition to the project—none aroused by differences in religious beliefs and by how they call their God. Certainly, GK is not the first religious or Gospel-inspired group to come to the area or to the "predominantly Muslim" communities in Mindanao that was met with warm welcome; and probably, it wouldn't be the last.

—ROLANDO CHIN,
rollychin@gmail.com

The facts and quotes I used in my article were taken from Mayor Totoy Paglas' speech on his town's experiences with Gawad Kalinga.

—MARGAUX ORTIZ,
reporter, Inquirer

PSALM's P9-B demand has no basis

MAY I PLEASE REACT TO THE news item titled, "PSALM demands collection of P9B from buyers." (INQUIRER, 8/17/07)

As reported, Jose Ibazeta, president of the the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), in a letter to the Philippine Electricity Market Corporation (PEMC), is demanding P9 billion as balance payment for electricity traded during the months of August through September 2006. The demand was made after the Energy Regulatory Commission found PSALM innocent of price manipulation during that period, contrary to the separate findings of PEMC's Market Surveillance Committee.

To us, the demand letter means that PSALM is insisting that the market price in those months were indeed the price set by the forces of supply and demand and not a result of price manipulation by its three trading teams. With this, PSALM is saying it deserves to be paid the market rate of its electricity traded at WESM at that time—in full, thus the whopping balance of P9 billion.

Would this translate to another increase (about P2.15/kWh) that the hapless Meralco consumers will once again shoulder?

Perhaps, we need to ask these two questions first: Does PSALM really have a basis for collecting this P9 billion from PEMC and does PSALM really incur losses when it trades at WESM?

We believe that the electricity traded by PSALM at WESM is from the National Power Corp.'s independent power producers (IPPs), like the Ilijan, Pagbilao and Sual plants. Hence, all electricity traded is the subject of a power purchase contract expressed in peso price per kilowatt-hour paid by us, the consumers, through Napocor's AGRA (automatic generation rate adjustments) charges imbedded in our generation rate. This automatic adjustment used to be called the PPA. Since the power generated by these IPPs is already paid, this demand payment of PSALM will result in double charging which the consumers will have to bear. We oppose this demand of PSALM.

The IPP capacities go through the WESM trading only for the purpose of dispatching—meaning the rate per kWh under these IPP contracts will not at all be affected since these contracted rates are settled outside of market transactions. Incidentally, the same pricing also applies to the Meralco IPPs.

Thus, we are compelled to ask: What is PSALM's basis for demanding P9 billion from PEMC? The ERC should review PSALM's collection (from PEMC) covering its traded electricity since September 2006. The review should bring out the truth about the electricity pricing at WESM.

—JULIE AVILA,
spokesperson,
Kababaihang Kontra sa
Kuryenteng Mahal,
kkkmorg@yahoo.com

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Big businessmen want closure in Erap case

From page A1

But according to Trade Secretary Peter Favila, the business community only wants "closure" in Estrada's case, whether it be a conviction or acquittal.

"Business [leaders are] saying that this issue should be closed. That's all they're saying. Whatever the ruling of the Sandiganbayan, everybody should respect it," Favila told reporters in Sydney.

"They probably want to read something else in the papers, like in the INQUIRER," he said.

Miguel Varela, chair emeritus of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), said in a statement that the economy was very well on track despite the political adversities faced by the government in the past.

"Erap's case should not be seen as a stumbling block to continue with the gains the country has achieved over the last five years," Varela said.

He said that in the event Estrada was found guilty of charges, the PCCI would "support legal and constitutional means accorded by the legislative or executive branches of government, such as amnesty or a presidential pardon."

No serious threat

In the same statement, Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines and of the Philippine Exporters Confederation, said he was confident that the verdict, whatever it was, would not pose a serious threat to the local currency and trading markets.

"We have enough fuel to keep our economy running as the currency and stock markets have been stable due to the positive developments in the local economy," he said. "Macroeconomic fundamentals are well in place to minimize the negative effects ..."

Ortiz-Luis told the INQUIRER that an acquittal would not cause the erosion of business confidence and could even be a positive development.

"The survey showed that the people are not convinced that [Estrada] should be punished. I think [the sentiment] cuts through all sectors," he said.

Ortiz-Luis referred to an SWS survey commissioned by the political opposition that showed 48 percent of Metro residents want Estrada pardon if the court finds him guilty.

Ortiz-Luis said the business community would also welcome a presidential pardon for Estrada in case of conviction: "The business sector's attitude now is: Don't rock the boat ... If the way out of [a potentially destabilizing situation] is the possibility of an amnesty or pardon, the community will welcome it."

Legal process

In a phone interview, PCCI chair Donald G. Dee said the public should not speculate on the outcome of the case, especially because it was such a divi sive issue.

"Whatever the decision, all concerned, especially the executive [branch], should put in mind what is good for the country," Dee said, adding:

"There is the legal process, and we should let it run its course. We will not have a problem as long as due process is followed."

Dee said what was most important was for the government to protect the economic gains so far achieved.

He was referring to the record-high 7.5-percent GDP growth rates posted in the second quarter, on which PCCI officials had harped since the start of the year.

In a separate interview, Dee said: "We all have our personal belief [about the case], but this is already for the Sandiganbayan to decide. If we do not accept what the court says, we will veer away [from what's proper].

"Our main concern is the rule of law," he added.

'Ilibing na'

Favila said local and foreign businessmen he had consulted had nothing to say on the forthcoming verdict on Estrada's case.

"All they want is closure," he said. "For them, this will pass. *Ilibing na* (It should be buried)."

He dismissed speculation that a conviction would spur massive demonstrations and political instability, saying: "The business community is confident that the government is in control."

Indeed, Makati Business Club executive director Alberto A. Lim said all that the MBC wanted was for the case to be finally resolved.

Lim said business executives would be satisfied with either conviction or acquittal for Estrada.

"We hope the public accepts whatever the decision would be," he told the INQUIRER.

Political act

Asked about the possibility of an acquittal or presidential pardon, Lim said the latter, "definitely [illegible] political" act, would show that other political factors were at play.

"Maybe the business community would be disappointed [w[illegible] pardon] because this would mean that the government is not willing to follow through on the prosecution of a big fish," he said.

Lim was reacting to a statement made on Wednesday by Astro del Castillo, a director of the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines, that the business community expected a verdict of conviction and that a subsequent pardon would undermine business confidence.

According to Lim, "the real disappointments are cases like the assassination of former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. and the prosecution of the Marcoses.

"At least in Erap's case, the government carried out the prosecution throughout. He went through the legal process," Lim said. *With reports from Norman Bordadora and Volt Contreras in Manila; Juliet Labog-Javellana in Sydney.*

Bishop opposes Erap pardon if he's found guilty

By Beverly T. Natividad

CHURCH LEADERS HAVE weighed in on the prickly issue of the possible verdict on ousted President Joseph Estrada.

In an interview yesterday with Radio Veritas, Puerto Princesa Bishop Pedro Arigo expressed opposition to a presidential pardon should the Sandiganbayan find Estrada guilty of plunder.

Arigo, who chairs the Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, said a pardon for Estrada would be "out of place" because he had not admitted to the charges.

"That's why Estrada is right," the bishop said in Filipino. "If he is pardoned, he should not accept it because that's tantamount to an admission of guilt."

Arigo also said justice in Christ's teachings was anchored on the truth.

He said that justice should be carried out with the proper mix of truth, compassion, charity and love, and that carrying out justice with only compassion and love was a weakness to which many people often succumbed.

Earlier this week, Jaro Archbishop and CBCP president Angel Lagdameo held off on commenting on the forthcoming verdict.

Asked in a radio interview if he thought the promulgation would spark violent reactions from Estrada supporters, Lagdameo said in a mix of Filipino and English: "Let's wait for the court's decision. That is the best decision—not to preempt the court. We should not condition the minds of the people [on any verdict.]"

Call for calm

Bro. Mike Velarde, leader of the Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai, has asked the public to accept the court's verdict calmly.

"We should treat this case peaceably, whatever is the decision of the Sandiganbayan. It's not really a decision that's based on pressure from any side ... and that should be the case," Velarde told reporters in a recent caucus between bishops and legislators.

He said he believed in the credibility and impartiality of the antigraft court.

Velarde also called for an end to "speculations" on the verdict. He said these speculations had prompted the government to launch "overkill" preparations, including the deployment of thousands of policemen and soldiers at the Sandiganbayan and Malacañang.

"Why should we expect trouble?" Velarde demanded to know. "We should first wait for the decision of the Sandiganbayan because what has been coming out are mere speculations."

Tanay will still be his prison until his final conviction

SPECIAL PROSECUTOR DENNIS Villa-Ignacio, the lead prosecutor of the ousted President, yesterday conceded that a conviction in Estrada's plunder case might not necessarily result in his immediate transfer from his vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal, to the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa.

"If it's an ordinary case, the convict will go directly to prison. But I'm very sure his lawyers will ask the court to allow him to stay in Tanay during his appeal," Villa-Ignacio said.

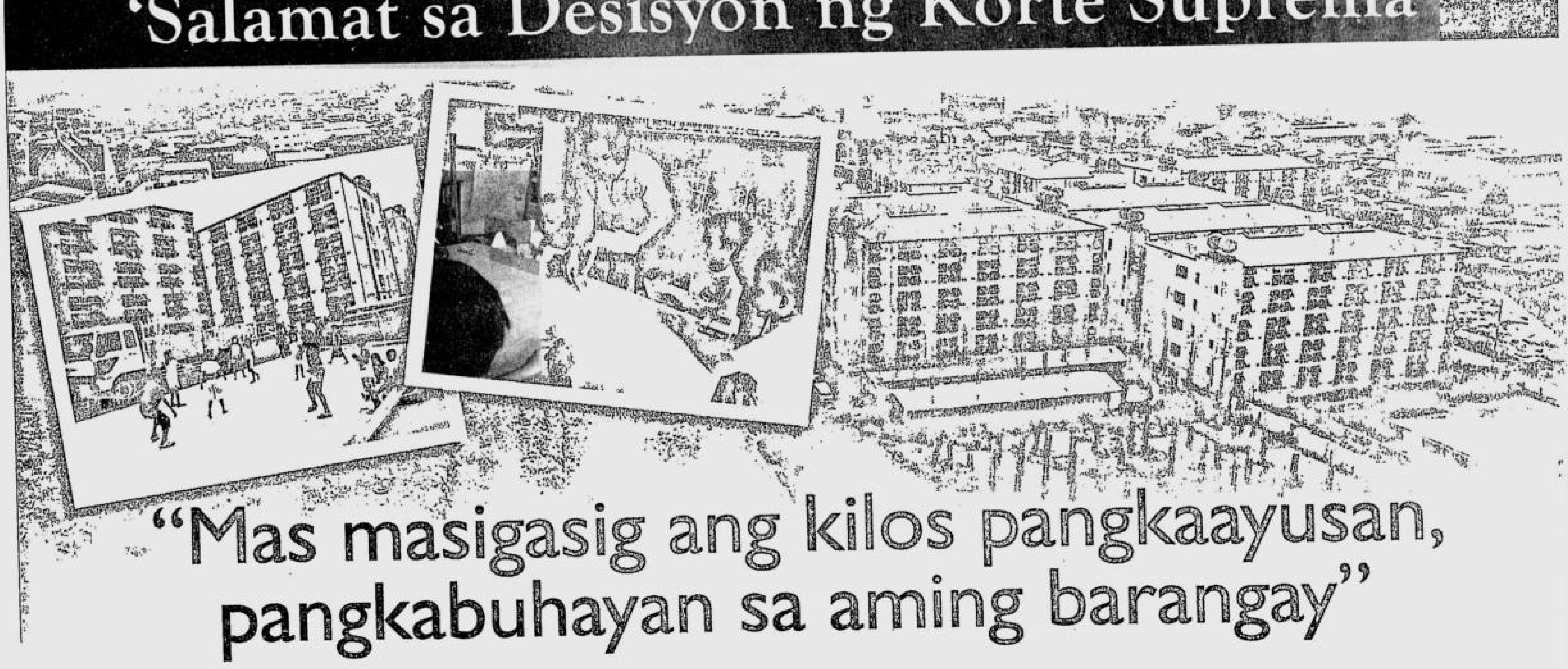
As for the ex-President's coaccused son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, Villa-Ignacio said only "a final conviction" by the Supreme Court would strip the lawmaker of his position.

Estrada himself is unfazed.

"I am innocent," he told Reuters on the phone from his rest house, where he has been detained since 2001.

"I am confident that I will be acquitted if the court would only base its decision on the merits of the case. They have failed to present any strong evidence to support these fabricated charges," he said.

'Salamat sa Desisyon ng Korte Suprema'



"Mas masigasig ang kilos pangkaayusan, pangkabuhayan sa aming barangay"

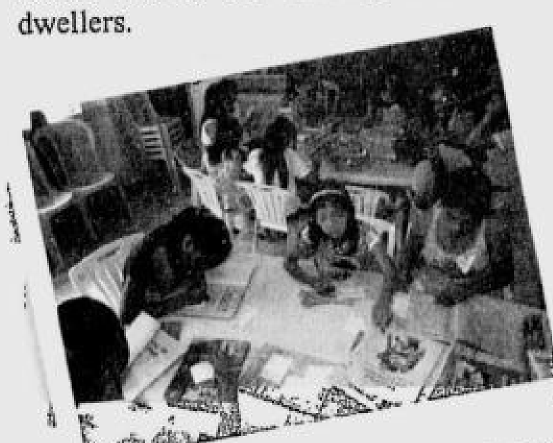
In the late 80s, it was useless trying to locate criminal elements hiding in the deep, dark maze of shanties built by the community of Smokey Mountain dumpsite scavengers. The same went for trying to stop violence amid endless sessions of drinking in the place that was labeled as world symbol of urban blight.

But all these are in the past now, states **Teodoro "Boy" Iradiel,** barangay chairman of Barangay 129 of Balut, Tondo, Manila. *"Mas organisado na kami ngayon. Ang laking ginhawa at kaayusan nu ang naganap sa aming lugar* (We are more organized. Our community is so much improved)," he states.

He says their barangay is now able to attend to other pressing needs of residents such as livelihood and medical assistance. Of late, the barangay has been able to give much-needed attention to special children.

"Kaya talagang laking pasasalamat namin sa Supreme Court at nabiygan ng tunay na halaga ang Smokey Mountain project. (Thus we are so thankful to the Supreme Court for rendering upon the Smokey Mountain project its real value," Chairman Iradiel states.

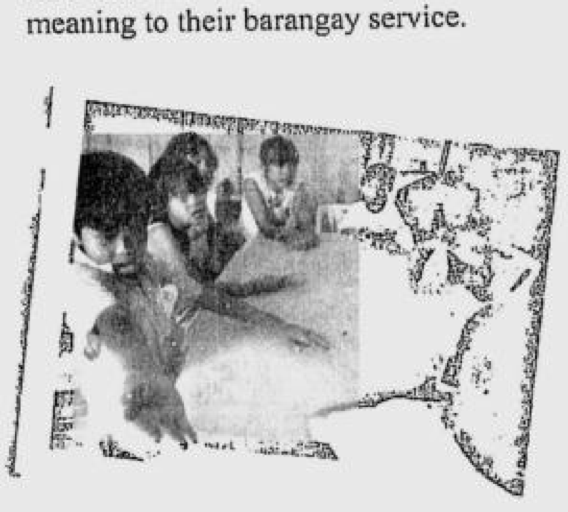
Thirteen Supreme Court justices have recently voted to declare the validity of the Smokey Mountain Reclamation and Development Project that provided decent homes for Smokey Mountain dwellers.



It was in early 1999 when 2,520 families in the area transferred to their permanent homes in 21 medium-rise buildings. *"Ngayon, may address na ang mga tao at madaling mahanap kung sino ang mga loko-loko.* (It is much easier to locate lawless people now that residents have addresses)," the two-term barangay head declares.

Of the recent projects onstream at Barangay 129, the projects to help special children and the ***"Aklatang Bayan"*** are closest to his heart. Children troop to their new two-storey barangay hall to discover the joys of reading with the help of ates and kuyas.

At one end of the hall, Chairman Iradiel points to a young boy, a retardate, with his head stooped. "He can now say 'ma' and 'pa'." Then, he comes near a young girl with very lean legs and whose mental age is three. With somewhere to go, she is able to leave her house with the help of her mother. *"Dito, mayroon silang dagdag aruga* (Here they get added care),' he says, and with a sigh, adds that the children have given added meaning to their barangay service.



Salamat sa Korte Suprema!

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

If ZTE deal cancelled, China will not cancel $400-M loan—Favila

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SYDNEY—CHINA WILL NOT CANCEL the $400-million loan facility it recently granted the Philippines even if the latter scraps the $329-million national broadband network deal won by the Chinese firm ZTE Corp., Trade Secretary Peter Favila said here yesterday.

"It's really up to the Philippine government. That's what China is saying. If the Philippine government doesn't want it, it's no big deal to them," Favila said when interviewed during a break in the meetings of ministers for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit.

Not fly-by-night

Favila said this was what his counterpart, Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai, told him when they met during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Ministers Meeting in Manila two weeks ago.

Bo said that "contrary to what is being said in Manila," ZTE is not a fly-by-night company but is the "largest telecom company in China, which has undertaken much, much bigger projects" than the NBN project in the Philippines, according to the trade secretary.

But Favila said China did not specify what project would be funded by the $400-million loan.

"I suppose so," he said when asked if the Chinese government would not withdraw the loan if the ZTE contract were cancelled.

"The assistance of China was channeled to China Eximbank. I suppose whatever project we want (can be funded through this loan)," he said.

Favila said canceling the ZTE deal would not affect RP-China relations.

Expanding trade

"We talked during the Asean ... and I told him that what was being said that there was an anti-China sentiment in the Philippines was not true. I told him that as long as I am the minister, we should not allow anything that will get in the way of furthering our relations," he said.

Asked if honoring the ZTE deal would be one way of preserving the relations, Favila said: "Well, let's not be specific about certain business deals. Let's look at the bigger picture. Our trade with China is expanding."

Apec nations agree climate change of 'vital interest'

SYDNEY—PACIFIC RIM NATIONS AGREED yesterday that climate change was of "vital interest," but squabbled over whether their leaders should set energy efficiency targets at their annual summit.

As officials worked for a third day to craft the wording of a global warming statement that would be acceptable to all 21 leaders at the summit, familiar battle lines were etched over the bigger-picture item of emission reduction targets.

President Hu Jintao reiterated China's position that the United Nations was the best forum to tackle climate change and that rich nations should bear more responsibility than developing countries for reducing global pollution.

China and other developing Asian countries are opposing a US-backed Australian plan for the leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group to include hard targets in their statement, diplomats said.

The specifics of Australia's plan were sketchy, but officials said they involved loosely defined aims to reduce "energy intensity" rather than greenhouse gas emissions.

Australia achieved a step toward its aim of marking Sydney as the global warming Apec, however, when foreign and trade ministers included the issue in their concluding statement from two-days of talks on trade, security and a host of other Apec issues.

"Climate change, energy security and clean development are of vital interest to Apec economies and will be a key theme for Apec leaders," the statement yesterday said.

The ministers said they "welcomed initiatives that encourage individual economies to set goals and formulate action plans for improving energy efficiency."

The final wording of a separate leaders' statement on climate change was being hammered out by other officials, and hard targets were the main sticking point.

Differences on numerical target

Differences of opinion remained on "the need to have a numerical target or not," Indonesian delegate Salman Al-Farisi said.

US and Japanese officials have said one idea floated is a target to cut energy intensity, the amount of energy needed to produce one unit of gross domestic product.

Hu, at a a joint news conference with Australian Prime Minister John Howard, said yesterday that any Apec statement on climate change should make clear that UN negotiations "should remain the main channel for the international efforts to tackle climate change."

Highlighting the gulf between the US-backed and developing world positions, Hu said any Apec statement should recognize "common but differentiated responsibilities"—meaning developing nations should not bear the same burden as developed ones in cutting emissions.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said the Australian proposal was not an attempt to "preempt" the UN framework, but an attempt to get more nations to work together to curb global warming.

Common commitment

"We would like the world to move ... to a position where all countries make a common commitment to stabilizing and eventually reducing CO_2 emissions," Downer told Australia's Nine Network television yesterday.

The United States and Australia want Apec leaders to embrace a new approach to climate change that would require China—one of the world's biggest polluters—and other developing countries to meet targets on reducing greenhouse gases.

Developing nations maintain that Apec, a consensus-based, trade-oriented group, is no place to discuss the details of a new approach to tackling global warming.

Work on successor to Kyoto protocol

Those details, Asian diplomats said, should be hammered out within a UN framework. The world body has called a meeting in Indonesia in December to start work on a successor to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which excludes developing nations for emission targets.

The United States and Australia rejected Kyoto, arguing that emission targets that could hurt economic growth should apply to all nations.

In their deliberations, the trade and foreign ministers agreed on a range of other Apec matters, including the promotion of free trade among members, anticorruption and counterterrorism measures and food and product safety measures. *AP*

GMA has a lot on her . . .

From page A1

Philippines and other international issues confronting the two countries and Apec.

But Lazaro doubted the arrest of exiled communist leader Jose Ma. Sison in the Netherlands would come up during the Rice-Romulo or Bush-Arroyo meetings.

Lazaro said the issues of terrorism, US military aid and climate change could be taken up during the President's one-on-one meeting with Bush.

She said there would be "very substantive" discussions during the US president's lunch with Ms Arroyo and other Asean leaders.

Asked what role Ms Arroyo would take during the Apec meeting, Lazaro said: "I think she will be sustaining the projection that we are open to all these reforms being discussed—trade facilitation, customs issues."

Not afraid of globalization

In a statement before leaving for Australia, Ms Arroyo said that while the Philippines and other developing countries might not be ready to compete head-to-head with developed nations, "We cannot afford to be afraid of globalization."

"We hope to see greater regional economic integration made possible with all 21 Apec economies agreeing to pursue the path of trade liberalization and a discussion on how Apec can work together to address the global challenges of climate change through a renewed framework for cooperation as a follow-up to the Kyoto Protocol," she said.

It was not clear if her call for a "renewed cooperation framework" on climate change backed the proposal of Bush and Australian Prime Minister John Howard for Apec to endorse a new approach to the divisive issue—one that unlike the current Kyodo Protocol would require firmer action by China and other developing countries.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ms Arroyo welcomed discussions on climate change at Apec but binding action would have to be taken within the framework of the United Nations.

"We will be active in the discussions, we will echo not only our views but also the views of the NGOs ... whom we are working with," Bunye said, referring to environmental groups calling for more drastic emission cuts.

Way ahead on climate change

Speaking after the Apec breakfast meeting of foreign ministers in Sydney, Romulo said the Philippines fully agreed that the way ahead for the climate change agenda called for flexibility, recognition of national circumstances, and fair burden sharing.

"With its sweeping implications on global sustainable development, stability and security, climate change is a major issue that Apec cannot ignore," Romulo said.

"We support international climate change cooperation based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities."

Romulo said that as nations proceeded to strengthen their climate change programs, sharing of information and experiences with regional and international partners, particularly on new technologies and better policies to strengthen not just mitigation but also adaptation," had to be undertaken.

He stressed that under the UN Framework for Climate Change Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, the Philippines had already implemented and sustained key programs such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

28 RP projects

The Kyoto Protocol's CDM allows developing economies like the Philippines to voluntarily reduce greenhouse gas emissions through private sector initiatives.

To date, the market-based mechanism has generated 28 projects in the Philippines, accounting for more than 1.5 million tons per year of emission reduction credits registered in the country.

Romulo, however, said that national programs had to be pursued alongside intensified regional and international efforts to address climate change. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana, AP*

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Red tide worsens Sorsogon poverty

THE ERUPTION of Mt. Bulusan in Sorsogon City provided temporary respite from worries over a ban on shellfish gathering as a result of red tide in the area. The ban has sent hundreds of shell gatherers jobless.
MAR DE LA CRUZ/CONTRIBUTOR

SORSOGON CITY—THE LOSS OF income by families as a result of a ban on gathering shellfish because of red tide is driving housewives and children out in search of menial jobs elsewhere.

Telesforo Mendoza, chief of the fishing village of Barangay Cambulaga, said his constituents were struggling to cope with the economic impact of the ban.

"At least 80 percent of my constituency depend on the shellfish industry," he said.

The village, where the first red tide poisoning occurred last year, has more than 3,000 residents.

Wilfredo Pura, 46, was forced to allow his wife, Olivia, to work as a house help in Metro Manila since May due to lack of income to support his family.

Two of his children were also compelled to work in a hardware to help the family while the other two of his six children failed to enroll last June due to financial difficulties.

Pura, who was fixing a fish net when INQUIRER talked to him, said even shifting to another form of livelihood, like fishing, did not guarantee income due to dwindling catch.

"With shellfish, you are assured of a minimum of P200 daily, which was enough for our daily needs, but now it is gone," he said.

Pura appealed to the government for help.

His wife earns P3,000 monthly as house help and sends P1,500 home.

Catherine Sesbreno, 15, was tending her four younger siblings in their house when INQUIRER visited, accompanied by the village chief.

She said her mother was also working in Manila while her father went to another village in the city to look for food.

She, too, has stopped schooling for lack of money to support her studies.

The following day, when INQUIRER visited again the Sesbreno family, Catherine's father Arturo appealed for immediate help.

He said his family was able to survive on credit from a nearby retail store.

"What if they stopped giving us credit," he said.

The sheer poverty forced families to eat green mussels even if they knew it could mean death, he said. *Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

ROUNDUP

3 die in accidents

LUCENA CITY—At least three motorcycle riders died and seven tricycle passengers were injured in three separate accidents in Quezon province over the weekend, police said Tuesday.

On Monday in Plaridel town, motorcycle riders Orlando Silao and Junjie Ledda, died when they rammed into an electric post.

Before midnight on Sunday in Gumaca town, another motorcycle rider, Jeanette Nacionales de la Peña, was also killed after she was hit by a bus.

On Monday in Calauag town, an Asian utility vehicle (DVF-716) being driven by one Jesus Moso slammed into a tricycle full of passengers in the village of Binutas along the Maharlika Highway.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

World War II bombs found

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Eight bombs, believed to be of World War II vintage, were found on Tuesday near a school in Sta. Cruz, Laguna where a new building was being constructed, police said.

Sta. Cruz police chief Joriz Almodiel Cantoria said the bombs were dug up by construction workers while doing the foundation of a new school building of the Pedro Guevara High School.

Some bombs were placed in the municipal police station while others were not yet removed from the construction site.

Niña Catherine Calleja, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Cavite school enters 4th year

THE CAVITE State University (CvSU) Center for Business and Entrepreneurship in Imus, Cavite celebrated its fourth foundation with the theme "Academe and Industry—Strengthening and Partnership, Expanding Boundaries" last Aug. 30-31.

Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi, who was guest of the school, expressed his continued support for the school's commitment to be the center for producing competitive entrepreneurs and businessmen, not only in the province but also worldwide.

A statement from CvSU said CBE faculty members and students, with new dean Gilchor R. Cubillo, welcomed another year of expansion in the pursuit of long-term development plans.

SSS exec shot dead

COTABATO CITY—Unidentified motorcycle-riding men shot dead Wednesday the officer in charge of the Social Security System office here, police said.

Supt. Paniares Adap, city police director, said Macario Calunsag of Barangay Kimagango, Midsayap, North Cotabato, was on his way to the SSS-Cotabato branch in a tricycle when one of the suspects shot him.

Bystanders rushed the 48-year-old Calunsag to the Cotabato Medical Specialist Hospital but he died while being operated on.

Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

New OMA head named

COTABATO CITY—Malacañang has named a banker from Maguindanao as head of the Office of Muslim Affairs (OMA).

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER on Tuesday, the OMA said President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed Datu Ali B. Sangki as OMA executive director on Aug. 13 but he assumed office only on Monday.

The Manchester-educated Sangki assumed the post, which has a rank of undersecretary, from Lanao del Sur businessman Sultan Yahyah Tomawis.

Inquirer Mindanao

Militiamen get pay hike

CAMP SIONGCO, SHARIFF KABUNSUAN—Starting this month, the monthly subsistence allowance of militiamen in Central Mindanao will be raised from P1,800 to P2,700, a ranking military officer of the Army's 6th Infantry Division announced Wednesday.

The increase, according to Lt. Col. Paul Atal, commander of the 38th Infantry Battalion, will benefit some 6,000 members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) assigned with the 6th ID.

Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao

Police arrest, dismantle armed group in Cavite

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Seven suspected members of a private armed group victimizing landowners were arrested in a raid by the Regional Special Operations Group (RSOG) of the Calabarzon police in General Trias, Cavite Thursday.

Chief Insp. Jesus Kabigting, RSOG operations chief, said several firearms, including a .45-cal. pistol and a 9mm handgun, were recovered from the arrested men.

Organized

He said the suspects belonged to a "highly organized crime group" known to occupy vacant lots in Cavite.

The group would later threaten the lot owners to give up the rights for the ownership of the pieces of property.

"Members of this group are armed that's why they're able to intimidate their victims. They work like private armies," Kabigting told the INQUIRER.

He said they were still checking if the group had also worked for any local politician in Cavite in the past.

He said members of RSOG swooped down on the lair of the suspects in Sitio de Fuego in Barangay San Francisco at around 10:25 a.m.

As of this posting, policemen were still conducting an inventory of the confiscated firearms from the suspects. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Mayors back call for SK abolition

BINALONAN, PANGASINAN—MOST MAYORS have agreed the Sangguniang Kabataan should be abolished, saying SK officials could not divide their time between schoolwork and responsibilities in the SK, according to a top official of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines.

"The mayors do not openly speak [about the issue] because of political reasons, but they are for the abolition of the SK," Mayor Ramon Guico, LMP president, said.

He said many SK presidents fail to attend the municipal, city and provincial council sessions held during school days because they needed to go to their classes.

"So they are not really able to represent the youth during the sessions but local governments are spending for their salaries and other expenses," he said.

As for SK projects in the villages, SK leaders usually consult barangay chairs who make the decisions on where the budget should be spent, he added.

Guico said whenever SK leaders ask local officials for projects they are usually accompanied by their parents "who dictate on their children what to do."

"They can not really decide on their own yet, thus they can not effectively represent the youth sector," he said.

Guico also said LMP members are divided between the plan to postpone the barangay and SK elections.

He said newly elected mayors wanted the elections to push through because most of the incumbent barangay officials are not their political allies, while reelected mayors wanted the elections postponed because incumbent officials are their allies. *Yolanda Fuertes, Inquirer N. Luzon*

BAGONG MAKAPILI
GMA
BAGONG MAKAPILI
SIAZON

FARMERS use native bags symbolic of treachery during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines during World War II at a protest rally against the Jpepa treaty with Japan. REM ZAMORA

Group says new fertilizer aid tied to Jpepa

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE NATIONAL fishermen's alliance Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas has voiced out suspicions that the timing of the release of a P125-million fertilizer grant from the Japanese government was "closely linked" to the approval of the controversial Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa).

In a statement, Pamalakaya Chair Fernando Hicap said the Japanese government was using the fertilizer project as "propaganda to convince the Senate to ratify the Jpepa.

One-sided

Hicap called the Jpepa a "one-sided economic treaty," describing it also as a tool for "Japan's second invasion of the Philippines."

"[The fertilizer grant] is part of the promotional blitz for Jpepa. The Manila government is making a big issue out of this strings-attached deal to please the Senate as a ratifying body that the local economy will gain much from Jpepa and that Japan will flood the country with more economic aid once the controversial economic pact is ratified," he said.

The Japanese Embassy in Manila announced on Monday that it had shipped 15,607 metric tons of fertilizer worth 300 million yen or about P125 million under its 30-year grant assistance program for poor Filipino farmers.

The final shipment, 5,000 metric tons in all, arrived via the Port of Iloilo on Aug. 28.

Japanese vessels

The embassy had said the shipment was intended for farmers tilling two hectares or less in Nueva Ecija, Isabela, Cagayan, Mindoro Occidental and Oriental, Camarines Sur, Albay, Negros Occidental and Iloilo.

Pamalakaya's opposition to the Jpepa concerned its Section 3's Articles 28 and 29 which state that the government would allow Japanese vessels in marine bodies exclusively reserved for Filipino fishermen.

Hicap said these "grossly violate the country's national sovereignty and patrimony to the highest order."
Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

Ex-security chief of farmers slain

DIGOS CITY—THE FORMER CHIEF SECURITY officer of the Davao del Sur Farmers' Association (Dasurfa) in Malalag, Davao del Sur was shot dead yesterday.

Dasurfa is a group of farmers contesting ownership of a portion of the Hughes Estate in Malalag.

Chief Insp. Cesar Cabuhat, city police chief, said Lorencio Fernandez, 43, a resident of Sulop, Davao del Sur had just alighted from a tricycle near the public market around 10:30 a.m. when fired upon by three motorcycle-riding men.

He said the suspects continued to fire at Fernandez even when he was already slumped on the ground.

They fled after the shooting, he said.

Cabuhat said by-standers rushed the victim to the provincial hospital but he died while being treated.

Police investigators said they are looking at several angles including Fernandez's work with Dasurfa.

Dasurfa had been engaged in violent confrontations against a group of another claimant in the area.

Jay-R Fernandez, the victim's son, said his father had ceased working for the farmers' group in April.

He said he did not know if his father had received threats prior to his killing. *Eldie Aguirre with reports from Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao*

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MMDA's 'Gwapotel' big hit at P20 a night, P5 a bath, with transients

From page A1

three to four feet away from one another. Guests probably get to understand why the rates are that incredibly low the moment they see this spartan arrangement.

Also, a transient, who normally is allowed to check in at 2 p.m., will have to pack up by 9 a.m. the following day as housekeeping needs to "hose down" the quarters for the next batch of bedspacers.

Nevertheless, Fernando said he expected the figure to grow as more workers discover Gwapotel ("gwapo" is Filipino for handsome or sleek, and a recurring buzz-word in BF's various beautification projects in the metropolis).

He said he expected the occupancy rate to reach 90 percent this month on word of mouth alone.

Profile of guests

Based on a guest list kept by the MMDA, most of the clients have been domestic travellers waiting for their ships bound for the Visayas or Mindanao, taxi drivers, call center agents, applicants for overseas jobs, port workers and government employees.

Many of the workers staying at the inn come from the Southern Tagalog.

Occasionally, guests appearing to be businessmen and white-collar personnel would show up at the inn, having run out of other lodging options in the city, Fernando said.

Each floor has a TV set, electric fans for ventilation, security cameras, and beds for up to 200 guests. As many as six guards are on duty at any given time.

Women are sheltered separately on the second floor.

Showers

Each bunk bed comes with a pillow and leatherette matting, but an extra mattress can be had for P25. It is not uncommon for guests to bring their own blankets and sleeping bags.

THE FACADE of the Gwapotel Inn on Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, reflects its no-frills but secure and decent interior. It has serviced more than 40,000 out-of-towners since its opening four months ago. A 710-bed inn, it has an average occupancy of 73% daily. INQUIRER PHOTO

To take a bath, guests use coin-operated showers, where they deposit P5 for approximately eight minutes of water flow. After eight minutes, the shower automatically stops.

Washing laundry is not allowed and eating is banned in the sleeping quarters.

There is a major policy at Gwapotel that one will not find in other hotels: "No reservations."

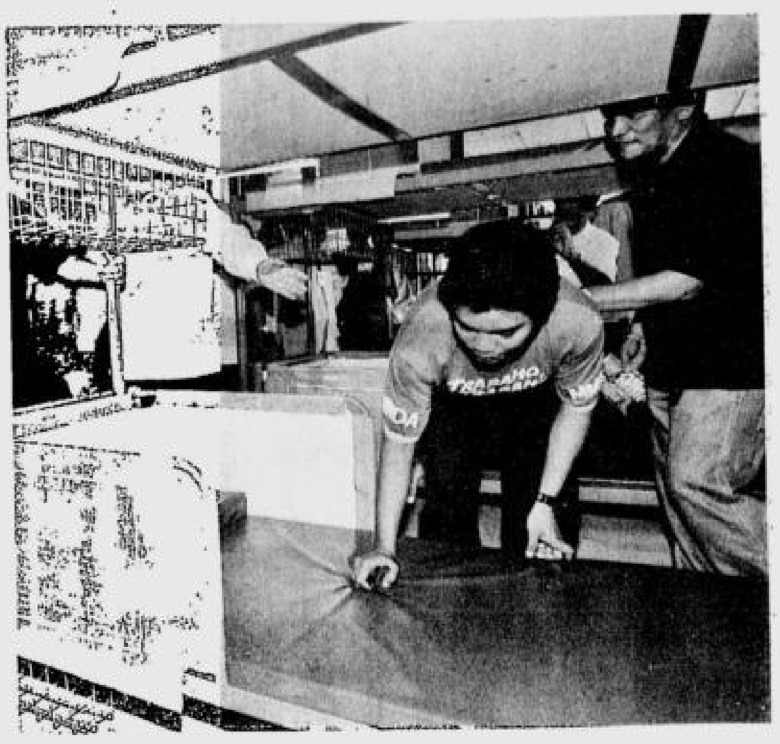
Josefina Saliva, who heads an MMDA committee managing the inn, said guests who intend to stay another night have to check in again the next day.

"The floor has to be empty between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. That's cleanup time," she said in an interview.

Of course, there have been some complaints.

Complaints

Mosquitoes used to be a problem, Saliva admitted, but this was alleviated with the installation of "air curtains" and more frequent use of insecticides.



BED AND BATH of choice for transients is the MMDA's innovative Gwapotel Inn. A prospective bedspacer checks out the amenities. INQUIRER PHOTO

Fights would sometimes erupt among strangers made to sleep close to one another, which Saliva said is "just natural in a room full of people. We just ask them to leave and settle it elsewhere."

And what usually triggers the fights? "Snoring."

Still, Fernando said, owing to the initial success of Gwapotel, MMDA will soon be opening similar facilities in three more cities in Metro Manila.

Palace forms new media office to polish RP image

From page A1

tives to project government messages in international media in support of national interests and governance thrusts in security, law and order, economic, diplomatic, political, social and other areas."

The President, who left for Sydney yesterday to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit, signed on Aug. 24 Executive Order No. 656 creating the International Media Office (IMO).

She allotted an initial fund of P30 million for the "communication campaign." The fund will be charged to the Office of the Press Secretary (OPS) headed by Ignacio Bunye "and other sources as may be identified by the Department of Budget and Management."

The OPS will take charge of setting up a separate office to house the IMO staff, and logistical and personnel requirements will be met by the Departments of Foreign Affairs, Tourism, Trade and Industry, and Labor and Employment, the National Security Council, and the Philippine Information Agency.

The Investor Relations Office will support the IMO, which is to "coordinate closely with Philippine embassies and consulates abroad."

Global offensive

A Malacañang official, who asked not to be named for lack of authority to speak on the record, said EO 656 could lead to the fielding of information attachés "as part of a global diplomatic offensive."

During the Marcos regime, media attachés were appointed by the President to embassies all over the world as part of the dictatorship's global media machinery.

The administration of President Corazon Aquino did away with all information attachés.

As a consequence, every time a Philippine president went on a foreign trip, the OPS' foreign visit secretariat had to go through a circuitous process of requesting, through the ambassador concerned, an embassy staff member to serve as media coordinator.

"EO 656 will increase coordination and lead to an integrated communication plan," the official said.

The way it is

At present, all media coverage of Ms Arroyo's foreign visits is handled by the OPS' Presidential News Desk (PND), the same unit that handles local media events involving her.

The PND broadcast arm is Radio-Television Malacañang (RTVM), which is technically under the OPS and is the workhorse of the government's media machinery. It is headed by Milton Alingod, a former press secretary who holds the same rank as Bunye.

RTVM's output is fed daily to government TV channels 4, 9 and 13.

Overall coordination for the President's provincial and local engagements is solely the task of the Presidential Management Staff headed by Secretary Cerge Remonde.

Foreign visits are handled by the Office of Presidential Protocol, currently headed by Ambassador Marciano Paynor.

The protocol office, with the help of the foreign visit secretariat, oversees and coordinates preparations for official, working and state visits, and even social visits of the President.

Best man for the job

The Arroyo administration has been the subject of international criticism stemming from the unresolved extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances.

It is also being rocked by such nagging issues as the controversial National Broadband Network deal with China's ZTE Corp. and the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal of 2005, which the Senate is reinvestigating starting today.

The bulk of the problem may be blamed on "the poor way the President's executives are explaining the issues," according to Sorsogon Rep. Salvador Escudero III.

Yesterday, Escudero found in Health Secretary Francisco Duque the best person to do the talking for the President.

Duque had come to the deliberations of the House committee on appropriations to justify the P16.2-billion budget that the Department of Health was seeking for 2008.

In response, Escudero said the health secretary would make a better mouthpiece for Ms Arroyo than Bunye or Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

"You are a good communicator," Escudero told the surprised Duque. "Actually, the President should consider bringing you to Malacañang to do the explaining [for her] rather than [leaving the job to] Secretaries Bunye and Ermita."

Getting worse

Escudero said "the situation" was "not really that bad."

"But it is becoming worse because of the very, very poor explanation of the executives in the Palace," he told Duque, adding:

"Again, consider going [to Malacañang] to help because she's in big, big trouble. There are so many personalities who can inform the President about it. The majority of the congressmen here [also] have direct links with the President.

"I mean it very sincerely."

Duque later told the INQUIRER that he was "elated" by Escudero's praise.

"But there are still many things to do at the DOH. Besides, I may be a good spokesperson for a day and not be as effective for a year because it's not my competency," he said.

DOH plans for next year hinge on a P16.2-billion budget, which comprises only 1.3 percent of the proposed P1.2-trillion national expenditure program for 2008.

Duque said half of the total amount would be devoted to the improvement of medical facilities under the care of the DOH.

Actually, the entire DOH budget falls short of the World Health Organization standard on the amount governments are supposed to spend annually on health care.

The benchmark is 5 percent of the gross domestic product, but the Philippine health budget represents only 3.2 percent of the GDP, Duque said.

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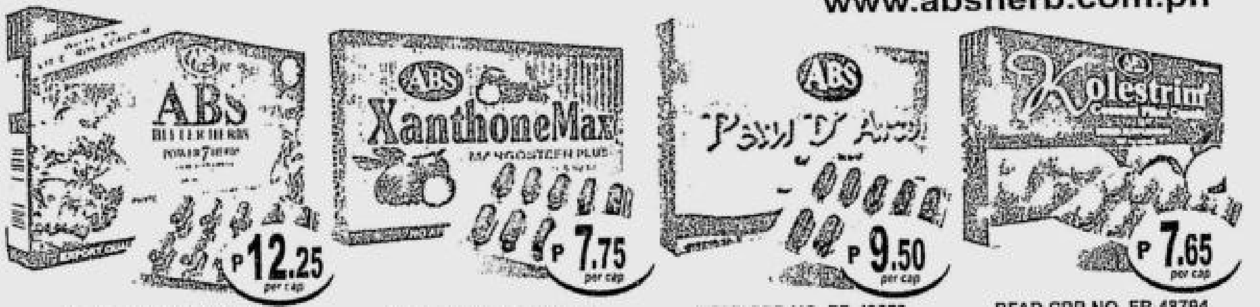

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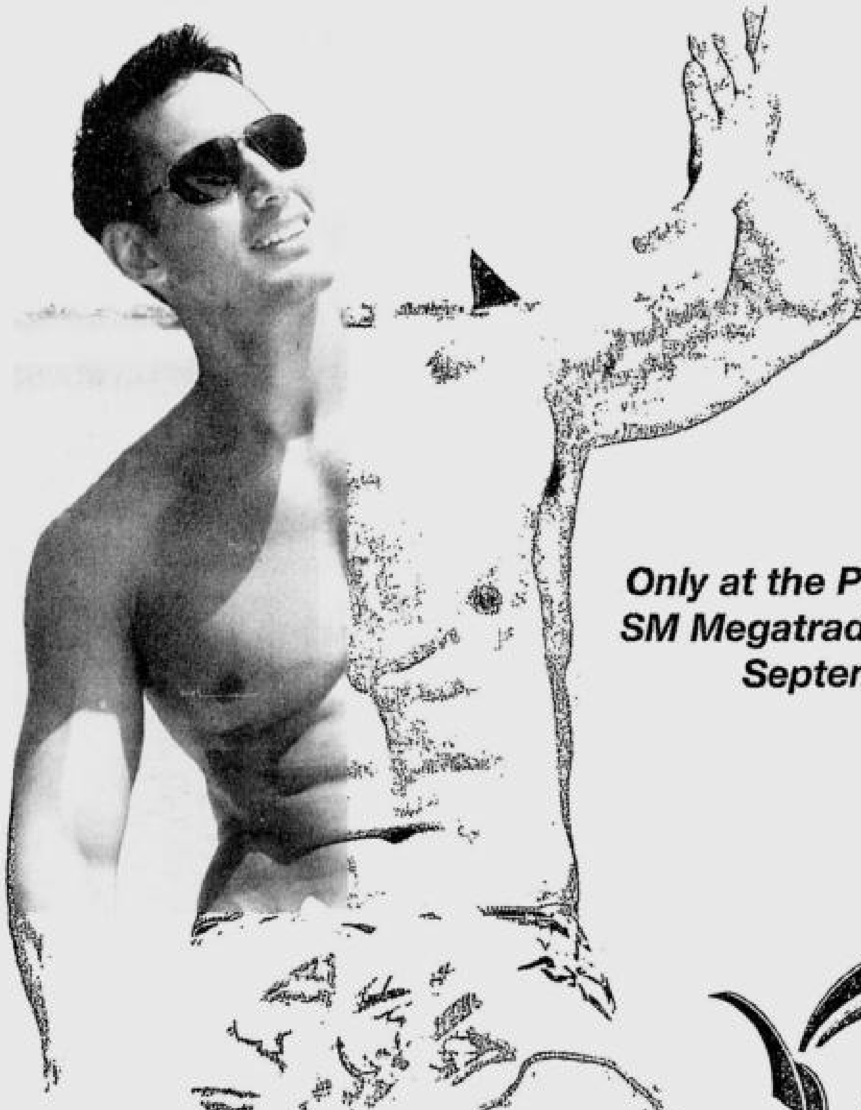

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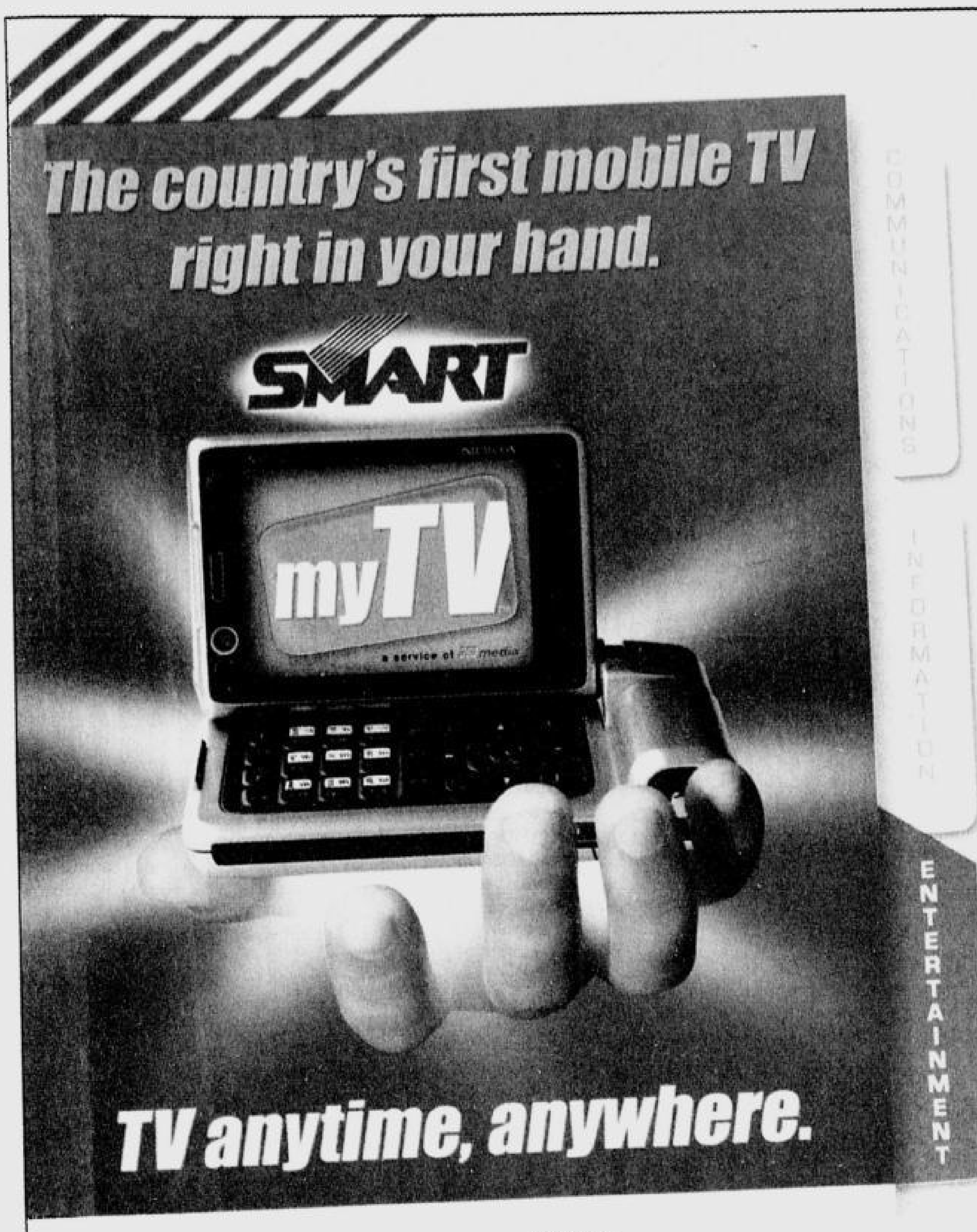

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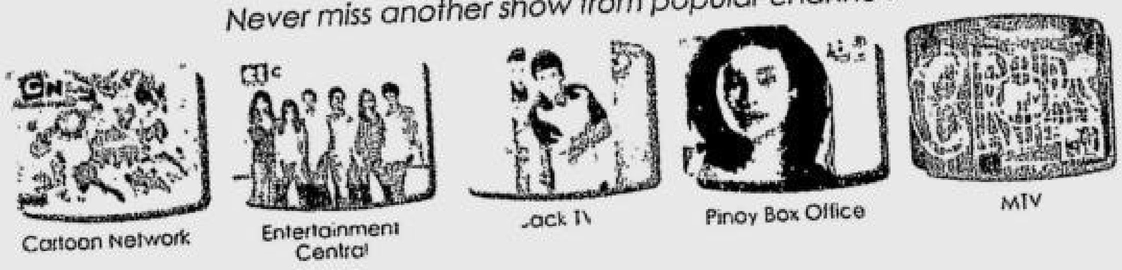

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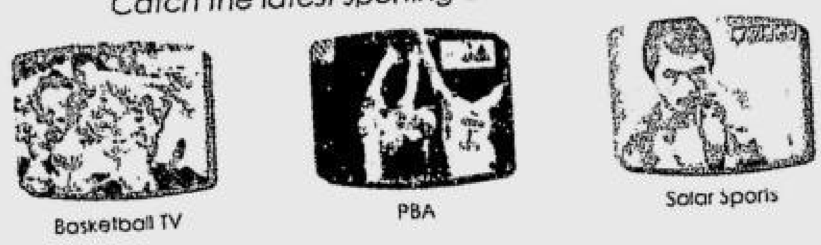

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GMA would let peso rise, issues order to help exporters

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo has refused to intervene to arrest the sharp rise of the peso against the US dollar.

Instead, the President issued Administration Order No. 194 "instituting a strategy to upgrade exports in the face of a strong peso."

AO 194 was signed on Tuesday but was made public on Wednesday by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita before the President left Thursday to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit in Sydney.

The peso's continuing rise against the dollar has led to calls from the export sector for the government to slow down the currency's appreciation, claiming it has led to the shutdown of 75 mostly small- and medium-scale export enterprises and resulted in P1.5 billion in foreign exchange losses in the first half of the year.

Reconsider policy

On Wednesday, Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Philippine Exporters Confederation, appealed to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to reconsider its foreign exchange policy to prevent the export sector from losing its global competitiveness.

Although Ortiz-Luis is close to her, the President is standing pat on her "policy of nonintervention." She has said time and again that market forces, not politics, should dictate the peso-dollar exchange rate.

Malacañang has also said that a stronger peso means lower interest payments on the country's foreign debt, which stood at P3.7 trillion in June.

In the AO, Ms Arroyo said she recognized that exports needed to be pushed to move into "higher value lines and processes and technical and credit support must be provided for those willing to be upgraded."

Instead of the central bank intervening, however, she said contributions from government-owned and -controlled corporations that are benefiting from the strong peso, like National Power Corp. and Transmission Corp. (Transco), could be used to help exporters.

Upgrade exports

She said NPC and Transco should help ensure that the businesses of electricity consumers like exporters "continue to be viable."

The President ordered the Department of Trade and Industry to work with the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center, government financial institutions and business to "draw up and implement a program with development loans to upgrade the quality, design and packaging of Philippine exports, especially those being priced out of the market due to the exchange rate."

She ordered GOCCs like NPC and Transco to fund the technical support for the export upgrading program which, she said, would assist sectors losing out in the exchange rate and help ensure that export businesses remained viable.

Strong economy

In an ambush interview yesterday, Ermita said the Department of Finance and National Economic and Development Authority had "made certain announcements about the mitigation of the ill effects on exporters" of the strong peso.

Ermita disagreed with businessmen who said that a strong peso did not mean a strong economy.

"That's their own opinion. Can you imagine the money we save and instead use this for some of our social and infrastructure projects because of the strong peso? We have more savings, we are able to address our deficit, among other things," he said.

He noted that economic managers and financial analysts had said that the government could balance the budget by 2008, even if the target for a balanced budget is 2010.

"All these things are contributory to the improved economy," said Ermita.

GMA acts on rice prices in metro

TO KEEP THE price of rice from rising further in Metro Manila, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered government officials to make sure there was an adequate supply of the staple.

Before leaving for Australia yesterday, the President assured the public the government was doing something to stop the price of rice from increasing and was addressing the inadequate supply of National Food Authority rice being sold at P18 per kilo in the markets.

Ms Arroyo said the government was undertaking the measures in view of the delay in the rice harvest following the dry spell experienced in some Luzon provinces.

"In our Cabinet meeting last Tuesday, I directed the Department of Agriculture and the NFA to step up the delivery of rice to public markets where the price of rice had increased and where there was no NFA rice," the President said in her departure speech. *Christine O. Avendaño*

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Frat dares UP over studes' suspension

NCPAG dean says it's a moral issue

By Jeannette I. Andrade, Kristine L. Alave and Tina G. Santos

THE SIGMA RHO FRATERNITY IS THREATENING to sue the University of the Philippines if the preventive suspension of four of its officers is not lifted.

The four were suspended for the duration of the investigation of the death of senior public administration student Cris Anthony Mendez.

The threat was contained in the fraternity's response to the order issued by Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Elizabeth Enriquez suspending officers of the Sigma Rho at the Colleges of Engineering, Law, and Social Sciences, and the National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG) starting Aug. 31

In the letter, lawyers of the fraternity asked the UP administration to lift the suspension order or they would sue the university, citing provisions of the university rules on due process for students facing charges.

'Too much'

NCPAG dean Alex Brillantes Jr. said that while the fraternity members had the right to due process, threatening the university with a law suit was really too much.

"This investigation into Mendez's death is more than a legal question. This is a moral question now. They have to look at the moral perspective to all this," Brillantes said.

Meanwhile, the UP Diliman Executive Committee condemned the "senseless and deplorable death of Mendez in what has been reported to be a fraternity hazing incident." The committee is composed of deans and directors of the colleges and schools and is chaired by the chancellor.

"The university assures the public and the bereaved family that it will exert all efforts and spare no one to bring the truth to light," the statement read.

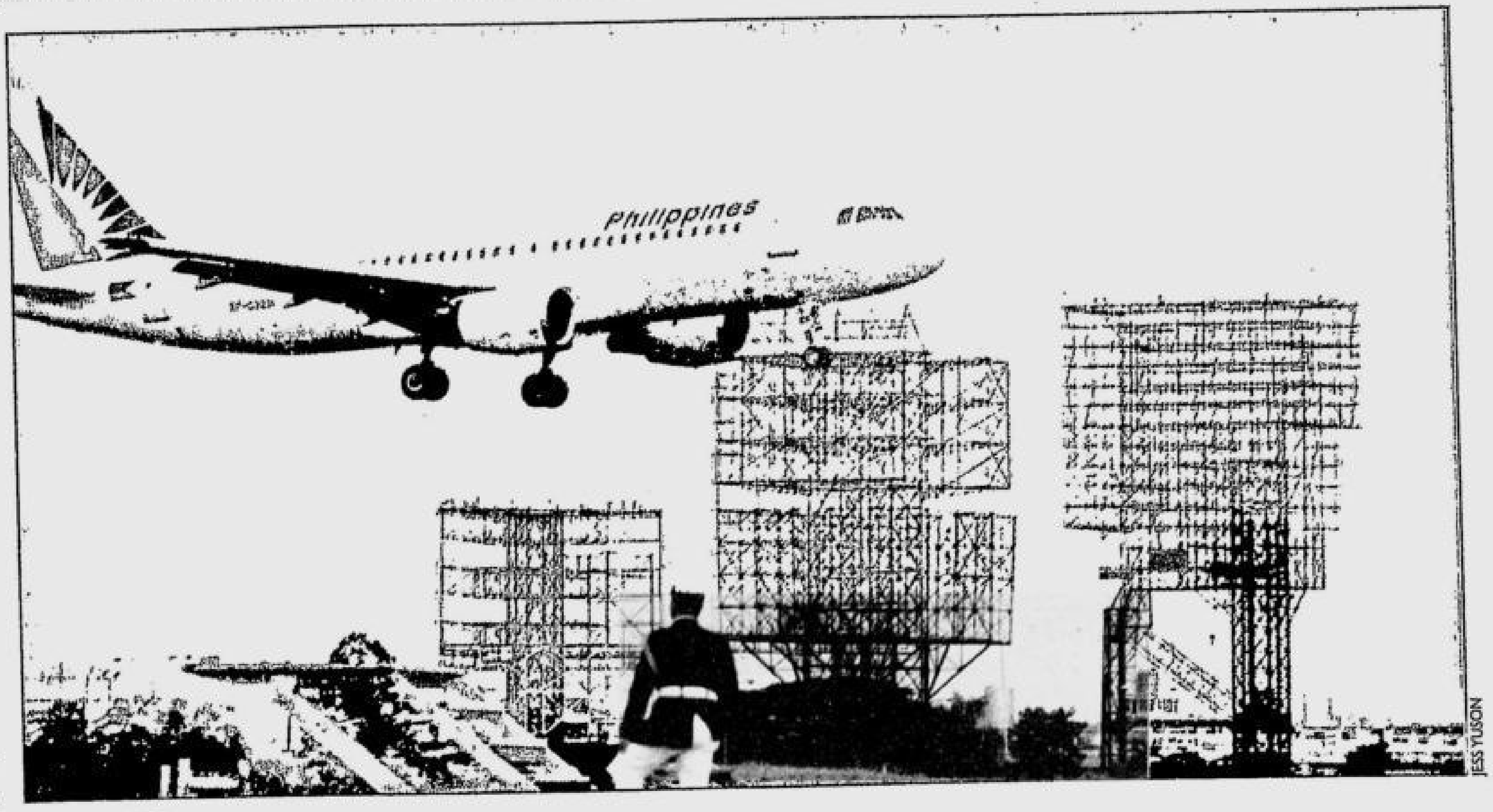
Change

"The Executive Committee calls in particular upon those who were directly or indirectly involved to find the moral courage to step forward and take responsibility for their actions," the statement added. "UP Diliman is firmly resolved to intensify all efforts to change the culture of violence which, from time to time, rears its ugly head in the course of initiation rites and inter-fraternity conflicts."

Brillantes said yesterday he supported proposals that would provide universities and colleges stronger control over fraternities to prevent hazing.

The NCPAG dean said Sigma Rho, the fraternity Mendez was allegedly trying to join, denied allegations they were involved in the incident. Students allegedly

FRAT/ A24



JESS YUSON

ALL CLEAR
A plane approaches the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City, now cleared of billboards that were deemed hazardous to incoming or departing aircraft. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority has stepped up its drive to remove giant advertising billboards in Metro Manila.

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Orix Metro's Truck Financing: A Work In Progress

ORIX METRO Leasing and Finance Corporation began offering truck financing to its clients at a time when the Philippine economy was rebounding from the Asian financial crisis.

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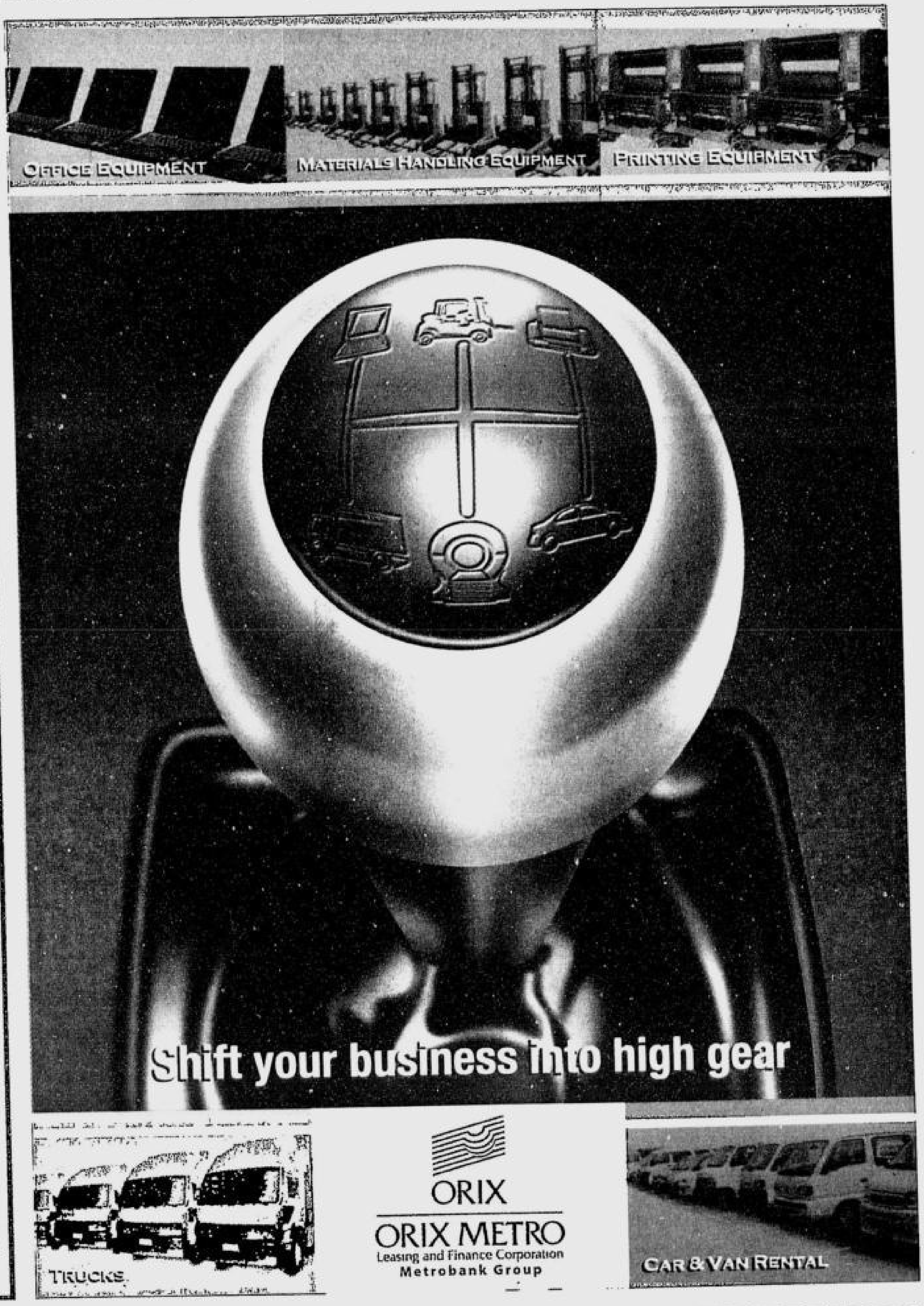
In addition, recent developments enabled ORIX METRO to support new players in the market, which came in the form of the brand-new small, medium and large trucks manufactured in China.

ORIX METRO's truck financing was focused on assisting small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's) with their logistics and equipment needs. From single tire trucks to wide hauling carriers, ORIX METRO can finance up to 70% of appraisal value or selling price.

For other equipment such as earth moving machines and generating sets, ORIX METRO could finance up to 60% of the selling price or appraisal value. This financial assistance has become fundamental in the fast delivery of goods and services within the Philippine islands ,which, in turn, has helped boost the local economy. At present, ORIX METRO is accredited with more than 40 major dealers in Metro Manila and nearby provinces. With its fast approval process and professional service, ORIX METRO is considered one of the foremost truck financing providers in the industry.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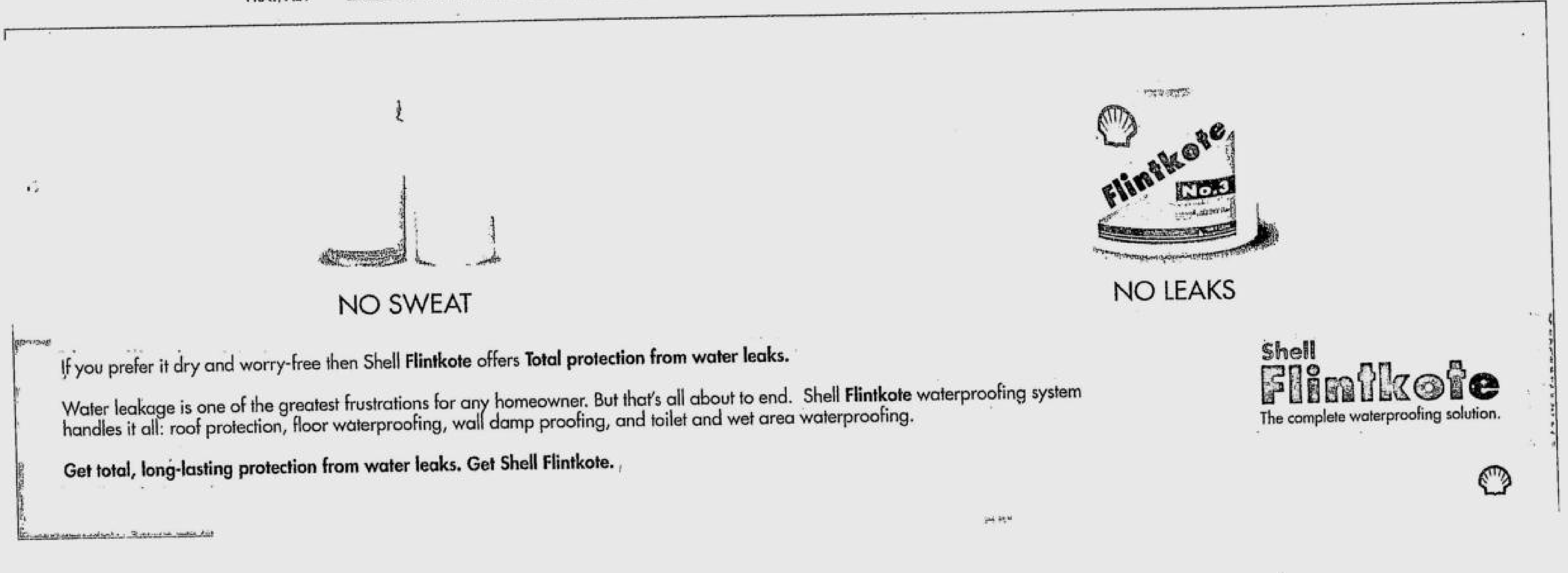

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2 more suspects in rape-slay taken into custody

By Allison Lopez and Tina Santos

RENATO "Rick Rick" Bohol, faces the media at the Manila City Hall, shortly after he surrendered to the Philippine Army Civil Military Operations Batallion in Tondo. REM ZAMORA

THE MANILA POLICE TOOK INTO custody two more suspects in the rape-slay of 7-year-old Geraldine Palma.

One of the suspects surrendered to the military while the other was caught in Bulacan yesterday.

Suspect Renato "Rick-Rick" Bohol, 41, of Isla Puting Bato in Tondo, went to the Civil Military Operations Battalion (CMOB) also in Tondo reportedly because he feared what the police would do to him. The Leyte native said he wanted to clear his name but admitted he knew the other suspects, who were his neighbors.

Another suspect, Joey Igos, was arrested by the Manila Police District (MPD) homicide division in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

Igos, also of Isla Puting Bato, was arrested only hours after Bohol surrendered to the military.

Three other suspects are already in police custody: Rosdam Mesias, Domingo Agnote and Ramil Diorico.

Manila homicide police alleged Bohol had strangled Palma and stuffed her inside a bag. The suitcase was found floating near the breakwater of North Harbor, on Aug. 16.

Armed Forces NCR chief Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino and acting Manila Mayor Isko Moreno handed Bohol to the Manila police yesterday.

Maj. Nelson de la Cruz, CMOB company commander, said Bohol's father Serafin and barangay official Ely Saluid sought their assistance for the suspect's peaceful surrender.

The CMOB fetched the suspect at his sibling's house in Purok 4, Lupang Pangako, Payatas, Quezon City.

"I don't know anything. I did not see how it happened and they are not my close friends," Bohol said.

But Moreno said a police witness positively identified Bohol. The vice mayor lauded the joint efforts of the AFP, MPD and the National Bureau of Investigation in the speedy resolution of the case.

A police source told the INQUIRER Mesias and Agnote, who turned state witnesses, passed a lie-detector test at the NBI yesterday. Diorico, however, chose to remain silent.

With the arrest of the five suspects, only the group's alleged leader, Henry Tesado alias "Hemlet," and housemaid Marites Ontog remained at large.

Moreno offered P50,000 from his own pocket for any information on Ontog's whereabouts.

Residents in Barangay Minuwan, San Jose del Monte provided information to the authorities that lead to Bohol's capture. They saw Bohol's picture on television, police said.

The police said a witness said Igos raped the victim inside a shanty in Tondo.

Meanwhile, operatives of the Criminal Investigation and Detective Group went to Floridablanca, Pampanga over the weekend following information that Tesado was seen there.

Authorities believe Tesado was the mastermind in the rape-slay. Ontog, on the other hand, was the last person seen with Palma.

QUEZON City policemen caught up with four suspected car thieves riding on board this car. The chase ended in a shootout at Batasan Hills. JOAN BONDOC

4 suspected car thieves killed

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

FOUR SUSPECTED CAR THIEVES died in a gun battle yesterday morning with agents of the Traffic Management Group and Anti-Carnapping units of the Quezon City Police District on IBP Road, Batasan Hills in Quezon City.

Two of the still unidentified suspects died on the spot inside a black Toyota Altis with plate number XEJ-943. The other two were brought to the Malvar General Hospital. The suspects, who sustained wounds from M-16 and caliber .45 guns in different parts of the bodies, were pronounced dead on arrival.

A police operative, SPO4 Leonardo Tecson, was hit on the right arm by a bullet from a cal. .45 gun. An onlooker was also injured and rushed to the nearest hospital.

An initial report by Supt. Constante Agpaoa showed the incident happened at around 8:30 a.m. The Altis the suspects were driving was reported missing earlier.

Authorities tried to get the suspects to stop but, instead of slowing down, they stepped on the gas.

Authorities gave chase. When the thieves noticed they were being followed, they fired at the lawmen, prompting the police to return fire.

Two cal. .45 guns used by the suspects were recovered. The police said the car's plate number XEJ-943 was also assigned to a Toyota Revo.

Edsa Shrine off limits to Erap supporters

By Kristine L. Alave

SUPPORTERS OF FORMER PRESIdent Joseph Estrada should stay away from the Edsa Shrine and conduct their protest rallies elsewhere as activities of this nature are banned from the shrine, the Eastern Police District director said yesterday.

Chief Supt. Luizo Ticman said the EPD would enforce the no-rally policy at the Edsa Shrine along Edsa Avenue in Mandaluyong City as it is a place of worship.

No rally zone

Despite the no-rally ban, the police still expect protesters to show up on the day Estrada's sentence is handed down by the Sandiganbayan.

Estrada, who has been under house arrest in Tanay, Rizal province, was on trial for plunder after he was deposed in 2001.

"Edsa Shrine is a no-rally zone as it is intended for religious activities only. That is also the desire and policy of parish authorities there. Nonetheless, we are prepared for any eventuality," the police general said.

Asked how many policemen they would deploy, Ticman declined to give figures, saying that it would be enough to maintain peace and order in the avenue.

Judge prevents Manila officials from taking over Vitas slaughterhouse

By Allison W. Lopez

THE CITY OF MANILA WAS PREvented from taking over a slaughterhouse in Tondo with the issuance yesterday of a 20-day temporary restraining order by a Manila Regional Trial Court.

Judge Silvino Pampilo Jr. of Manila RTC Branch 26 issued the TRO when the parties failed to draw up a compromise agreement.

Dealco Farms Inc., which manages the Vitas slaughterhouse, filed a complaint against Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim; Col. Levi Viesca, chair of the Veterinary Inspection Board; Ricardo de Guzman, chief of staff of the mayor, and Rodolfo Mariano.

Dealco sued when some 50 Manila policemen arrived on Aug. 14 to undertake the handover of the slaughterhouse, reputed to be the largest in the city, to the City of Manila despite the existence of a 25-year lease signed in 1999.

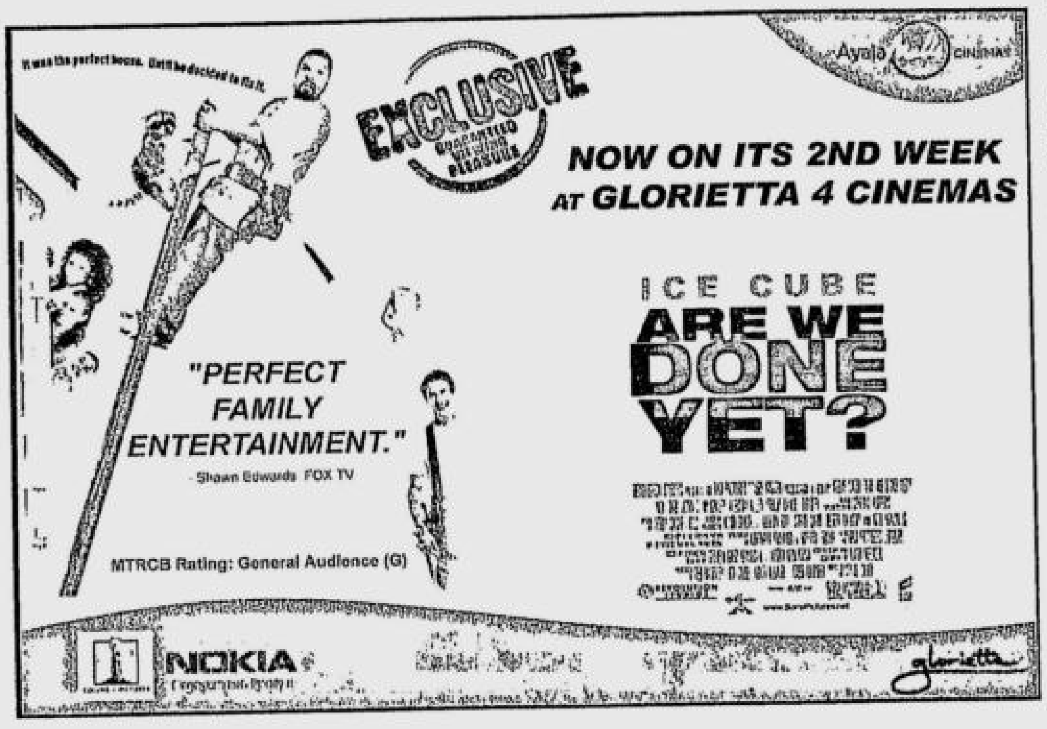
Tension rose when Viesca and Mariano, according to the complainant, arrived later with a document from De Guzman demanding the "physical turnover of the possession and operation" of the slaughterhouse.

Pampilo gave both sides five days to come up with a compromise agreement. After they failed to settle the dispute, the judge gave them seven more days, but still with no success.

"After careful consideration of the evidence presented by both parties in relation to the application for the issuance of TRO, it appears that herein plaintiff has proven the necessity and extreme urgency for the issuance thereof," the judge said in his two-page order.

DID YOU KNOW

THE LATE National Artist for Literature Francisco Arcellana was born on Sept. 6, 1916 in Sta. Cruz, Manila. The fictionist, poet, editor and literary critic was the founding chair of the Creative Writing Center of the University of the Philippines. He died of multiple organ failure in August 2002. ***Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research***



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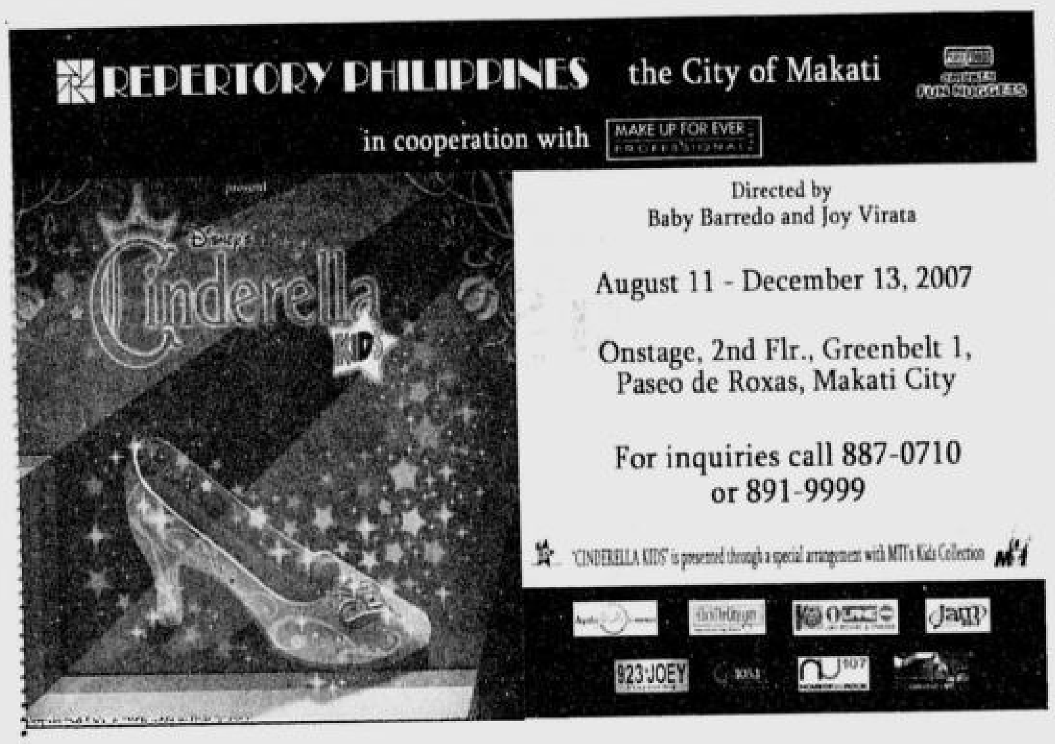

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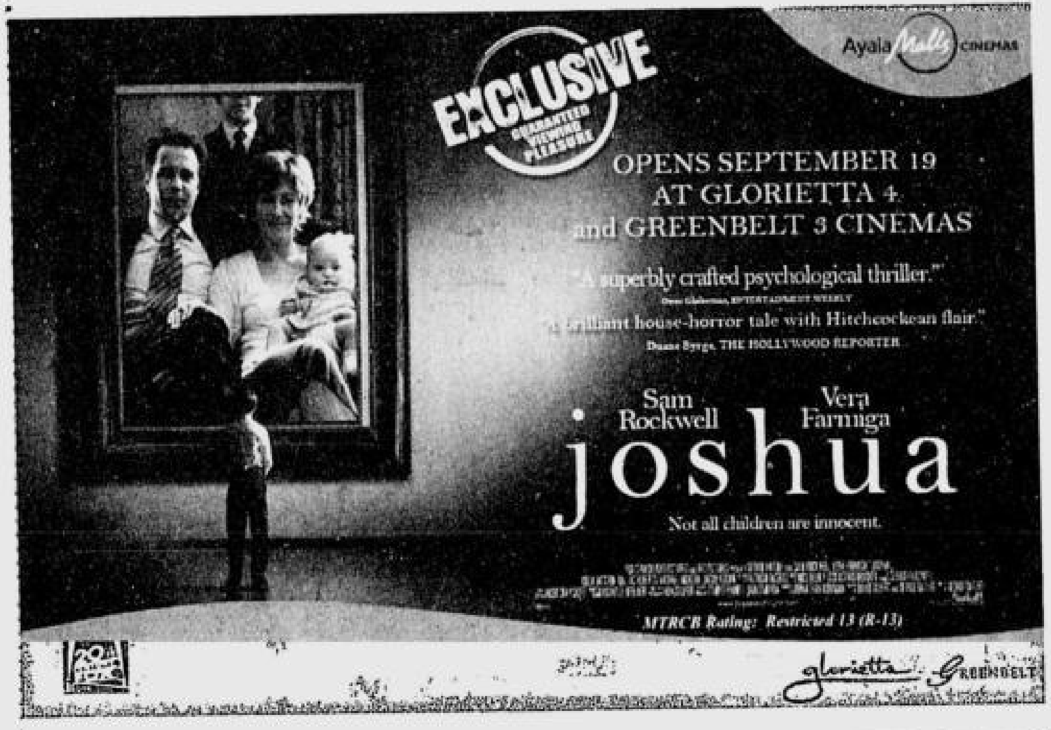

EXCLUSIVE
OPENS SEPTEMBER 19 AT GLORIETTA 4 and GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
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Sam Rockwell Vera Farmiga
joshua
Not all children are innocent.
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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE AFP BID AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(PROCUREMENT OF MILITARY COMPASS W/ ILS PACKAGE)

1. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), through the ***Special Allotment Release Order Nr. D-07-00818***, intends to apply the sum of ***THREE MILLION NINE HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 3,960,000.00)*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the corresponding contract for the ***Supply and Delivery of Military Compass w/ ILS Package.*** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. The Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the GHQ BAC1, now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the said item:

Qty	Nomenclature / Activity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Price of Bid Documents	Delivery Schedule
660 units	GHQBAC1-MQO-PAF-20-07 Military Compass w/ ILS package	Php 3,960,000.00	Php 3,000.00	To be delivered w/in 45 calendar days upon receipt of NTP or Letter of Credit, whichever comes last.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, corporation with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or corporations of a country the laws and regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). The process for the eligibility, technical and financial checking are described in Sections II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who would be determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from AFP BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday excluding holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee. The method of payment will be in the form of cash only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The AFP will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **9:00 a.m. September 14, 2007 (Friday)** at the ***Silid Panday Pira*, G/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.**
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **9:00 a.m. September 26, 2007 (Wednesday)**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form and corresponding amount allowed under RA 9184 and its IRR-A. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **9:00 a.m. September 26, 2007 (Wednesday)** at the ***Silid Panday Pira*, G/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. Only offers or bids from suppliers, dealers and distributors or their duly-authorized representatives shall be entertained. The equipment/GOODs should be used by the armed forces of the country of origin or by the armed forces of at least two countries in accordance with *R.A. 7898*. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking similar projects within the last five (5) years with at least twenty five (25) percent (for Single project) and fifty (50) percent (for accumulated projects) of the proposed project for bidding.
10. To facilitate eligibility checking, suppliers, dealers, distribution and/or prospective bidders who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the AFP BAC through the **GHQ BAC1 Secretariat** as early as possible but not later than three (3) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids.
11. The AFP reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract without incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) BGEN JERRY V JALANDONI AFP
Chairman, GHQ BAC1

Office of the AFP Bids and Awards Committee
G/F Bulwagang Syquio
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Contact Person: *Ms Edna B Malonzo*
Tel Nr: 911-6001 Loc 6486 / 6487
Fax Nr: 911-6001 Loc 6485
Email add: malonzo499@yahoo.com.ph
(PDI – September 7, 2007)

Human rights workshops in Metro enlist support of Army, policemen

By Jocelyn R. Uy

FROM BEING THE USUAL SUSpects in cases of human rights abuses in the country, Army soldiers and policemen are now taking lead roles in rights workshops to be conducted in urban poor communities in the Metro.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), together with the Philippine National Police and a non-government organization, Filipino Alliance Movement-Support, yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement with the Commission on Human Rights that would help prevent various forms of human rights violations. Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, outgoing chief of the National Capital Region Command (NCRCom), yesterday admitted that the AFP had always been accused as the perpetrators of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings in the country.

"But this event manifests our very strong commitment that we are ready to pay the cost to prove that we can be champions in upholding human rights," Dolorfino told the audience during the MOA signing.

CHR Chair Purificacion Quisumbing said that joining forces with the military and the police would give muscle to the commission, which, she said, was often referred to as "a toothless tiger."

Pilot seminars will be conducted in five areas where soldiers are currently deployed: Lupang Pangako in Quezon City, Bagong Silang and Dagat Dagatan in Caloocan City, Maharlika Village in Taguig City and Parola in Manila.

The AFP-NCRCom was also tasked to draw up a "Human Rights Competency Standards" which would measure the levels of human rights literacy of troops deployed in these communities.

The military, along with the police, will also develop a transparent and credible system of responding to reports of human rights violations which compensates the informant rather than puts his or her life in danger.

The CHR, on the other hand, shall be keeping a close watch on these pilot barangays to monitor, document and evaluate developments in these areas.

The presence of troops in urban poor areas in the metropolis has continued to draw fear and protests among residents, but Quisumbing said the seminars would provide venues for "participatory-consultative" activities between residents and soldiers.

Cops helpless as robbers strike twice in Valenzuela

By Nancy C. Carvajal

POLICE TOOK A BEATING yesterday in their campaign against crime when six robbers took off with more than P450,000 in cash and valuables in two robbery incidents in Valenzuela City early morning yesterday.

City police chief, Senior Supt. Billy Beltran said, the incidents took place in an all night convenience store and a frame shop located in Karuhatan, Valenzuela City.

Each robbery the police chief said, took only less than 10 minutes, and happened almost at the same time.

He said, first to be looted, was a 7-Eleven branch situated along McArthur Highway in Karuhatan, at around 7:25 a.m., when three suspects entered the store and posed as customers before declaring the hold-up.

Five minutes later, another set of suspects barged into the Frameworks Store at the basement of K. Plaza Al-la Building, Karuhatan, also in Valenzuela City and threatened its owners, Arsenio Co and his wife.

Beltran said the suspects used similar weapons to threaten their victims: a knife and a handgun.

No one was reported hurt in both incidents, but Beltran admitted the heists were a black mark in the city's anti-crime campaign.

Royale Homes Marketing Corporation 13th Anniversary

BEYOND EXTRAORDINARY, BECOMING EXEMPLARY

Royale Homes Marketing Corporation (RHMC), one of the biggest and fastest growing real estate marketing arms in the Philippines, is celebrating its 13th anniversary this September. A passion project by business triumvirate - Matilde Robles, Ma. Melinda Bernardino, and Ma. Carmina Sotto - RHMC started as a bold venture in real estate marketing. In 1994, the company started marketing the property developments of Royale Homes Realty and Birdland Realty only. With the experienced trio working hands on in the company, it expanded and became known for marketing **Sta. Lucia Realty & Development Inc.** projects in the Philippines. By far, it has introduced over 50 projects all over the country.

This year's anniversary celebration will be marked by the launching of "Branch Intensification Program 2007" which aims to strengthen the services of all Royale Homes Marketing Corporation branches located in Sto. Tomas Batangas; Malolos and Plaridel Bulacan; Cabanatuan; Gen. Trias and Rosario, Cavite; Davao; Subic; Taft Ave., Manila and Urdaneta. This program when implemented will fully cater to the needs of clients, sales force, and employees as well.

"The success of our business depends on the kind of service that we provide our valued clientele. We have trained our marketing and sales force to give professional yet personalized services that will suit the needs of individual clients. This year, we want that kind of service to be the guiding principle in all our branches because that will lead us to achieving our goals continuously," said Diding Robles, Royale Homes Marketing Corporation president.

The company started like a dream, but with the passion and determination of its founders, it became big. Today, the Royale Homes Marketing Corporation has more than a thousand accredited sales force nationwide.

To strengthen its network within the real estate community, RHMC also established partnerships with Lizaland Corporation, the owner and developer of Ivy Hill Residences in Taft Ave. Manila and SYSCO Development Corporation, the builders of Royale Homes' housing units.

"We establish partnerships with reputable companies by gaining their confidence. Our impressive marketing and sales output and the quality of the service we provide make us lead in the industry," said Robles.

One of the company's achievements this year is the inauguration of the 350-sqm Training and Research Development Center at the10th floor of the State Center II to further equip and empower their already formidable sales force. According to Robles, their 13 years of experience in the Philippine real estate market prepared them to conquer the international shores. It was also this year that they joined the Chamber of Real Estate & Builders' Association, Inc. (CREBA) in Hong Kong for their Royale Homes International Marketing Campaign.

Robles added that properties that RHMC carries, bear world standards of excellence and tasteful designs that are at par with first class properties built in developed cities in the West that are worth investing in.

With the initial international venture of the company, RHMC looks into a more fruitful year ahead. The founders are very enthusiastic that this will not just bring in more clientele, but new experiences, that will enrich the company and their workforce as well.

"Though we have embarked in a new venture, it remains our company's primary mission to help realize dream home ownership for every family in the Philippines. We believe that with the best community and home developers in the country, it is not hard to make that dream a reality," ended Robles.

Within the period of 2006-2007, Royale Homes Marketing Corporation opened Rio de Oro Residential Estates in Gen. Trias, Cavite; Ponte Verde de Sto. Tomas in Sto. Tomas, Batangas; Sta. Barbara Place and Sta. Barbara Royale both in Tandang Sora, Quezon City; and Villa Chiara in Brgy. Iruhin, Central Tagaytay City. Adding up to the long list is Royale Homes upcoming condominium project in Quezon City and residential estates in Cavite City.

Royale Homes Marketing Corporation is located at 6F State Center II Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines. For more information, please call (632) 726.4288 or fax inquiries at (632)723.4013 or visit www.royalehomes.com.ph.

STA. LUCIA
ROYALE HOMES
JOINS CREBA ASIAN CARAVAN 2007
HONGKONG - SHENZHEN
JUNE 1-7, 2007

The formidable sales force of Royale Homes Marketing Corp. during the CREBA exhibit in Hong Kong and Shenzhen as part of RHMC's International marketing campaign

The Executive Committee of Royale Homes Marketing Corporation: Ma. Carmina Sotto, Ma. Melinda Bernardino and Matilde Robles together with Exequiel Robles, Sta. Lucia Realty & Development, Inc. President & CEO *(photo courtesy of Asian Dragon Magazine)*

ADVT.

ROYALE HOMES

MARKETING CORPORATION

EXCLUSIVE MARKETING NETWORK FOR STA. LUCIA Realty & Development, Inc.

CELEBRATES

13th Anniversary

Beyond Extraordinary, Becoming Exemplary!

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITEE
Matilde P. Robles - President
Ma. Melinda A. Bernardino - EVP for Finance & Administration
Ma. Carmina A. Sotto - EVP for Sales, Marketing, & Training

Royale Homes Marketing Corporation – a marketing network *par excellence* - is now celebrating 13 years of fulfilling its mission of providing every Filipino the best real-estate properties imaginable.

Our passion for excellence has always been embodied by our sales force and staff as we mark every year with milestones after milestones, making us achieve feats that are beyond extraordinary. Today, we give recognition to the people who have rendered invaluable service and utmost commitment to our company, our developer and most especially, our clients.

We are prepared to face another year, full of optimism and with fervent hope that we will surpass all the challenges ahead of us as we continue to live our vision of becoming the leading real-estate marketing network in the country.

Royale Service Pinnacle Award

Rachelle O. Donceras
Employee of the Year

Favorite of the Family Hall of Fame

Bernadette M. La Madrid

Favorite of the Family - 2007 and Most Punctual Award

Shirley D. Amarante

Ten-Year Service Award (Staff)

Christina Sioson-Avendaño

Five-Year Service Award (Staff)

Gladys Joy Lourdes D. Marquez

Most Active Branch

(from left) Gina A. Reyna, Marife M. Moreno, Petria D. Pallorina - Sto. Tomas Batangas

Ten-Year Active Service Award (Sales Force)

(from left) Agapito L. Panta - Div. 10 SMD, Lourdes P. Bulzon - Div 6 SMD, Iluminado T. Haber - Div 6 RMD

Five-Year Active Service Award (Sales Force)

(Standing from left)
Arlene L. Ibera - Div 8 RMD, Reynaldo S. Placido - Div 11 RMD, Precy L. Diaz - Div 12 VP
(Seated from left)
Marilou R. Tabil - Div 11 RMD, Virginia R. Brito - Div 10 BMD, Nita S. Buencamino - Div 10 SMD, Alicia G. Biona - Div 9 SMD

Santa Barbara Place Residential Estates · Victoria's Place · Woodridge Heights Marikina City · Glory Heights Residential Estates Sto. Tomas, Pampanga · Metropolis Greens · Villa Chiara · Costa Verde · Glenrose East · Palm Coast Marina · Cainta Greenland Executive Village Cainta Rizal · Ponte Verde · Rio de Oro · Rizal · Royale · Ivy Hill · La Mirada · Club Morocco · The Villages at Lakewood City Residential Estates · Ridgewood Heights Residential Estates, Taguig

MAIN OFFICE:
6th Floor, State Center II, Ortigas Ave.,
Mandaluyong City
Tel nos: 724-7101, 724-7107, 726-4317
Fax: 723-4013
www.royalehomes.com.ph

Malolos Bulacan Branch: (B) 6205 ME McArthur Highway
Longos, Malolos City, Bulacan
Tel no: (044) 662-1097
Plaridel Branch: 2/F 711 Morante Bldg. II,
National Highway Rd., Banga 1st Plaridel Bulacan
Tel no: (044) 795-2933
Cabanatuan Branch: Unit 6, L. Padiernos Bldg.,
Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija
Tel no: (044) 600-0014
Subic Branch: Club Morocco Beach Resort
& Residential Estates, Cabitaugan, Cawag, Subic, Zambales
Tel no: (047) 252-2726
Urdaneta Branch: 2/F. Rm 1, St Francis Bldg . Mc-Arthur Highway,
San Vicente, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan
Tel no: (075) 568-4199

Gen. Trias Cavite Branch: Unit 1, Genstar Plaza, Governor's Drive
Brgy Manggahan, General Trias, Cavite
Tel no: (046) 402-1409
Rosario Cavite Branch: Costa Verde Residential Estates, Clubhouse
Gen. Trias Drive, Rosario, Cavite
Tel no: (0919) 882-6543
Davao Branch: Unit 6, Carlos Villa Abrille Bldg.,
J.P. Laurel Ave , Davao City
Tel no: (082) 222-4858
Ivy Hill Residences Information Center:
Taft Avenue, Manila
Sto. Tomas Batangas Branch: Unit No. 182
Motorcity South, Brgy San Antonio,
Maharlika Highway, Sto. Tomas, Batangas
Tel no: (043) 310-2205

The Royale Homes 13th Anniversary Celebration will be held today beginning with a Thanksgiving Mass at the main office followed by an awarding ceremony and party at The Elbow Room, Metrowalk, Meralco Ave., Pasig City

Green warriors launch zero waste drive in QC school

By TJ Burgonio

NOTHING LIKE STARTING them young.

A green group yesterday launched a guide on zero waste for schools, and tapped high school students to become green warriors in the fight against global warming.

The EcoWaste Coalition launched the "Guide to Zero Waste Schools" at the Ramon Magsaysay High School in Cubao in Quezon City.

The group, aided by Ms Earth beauties, turned over the guide to school administrators. It lists down ways to manage school waste beyond the usual 3Rs—reuse, repair and recycle.

"The idea is waste prevention, even before we go into recycling," EcoWaste Coalition secretary Manny Calonzo said in an interview after the launch. For starters, the school's more than 6,000 students could avoid using plastic straws when buying soda, or reject plastic bags when making purchases at the school canteen, he said.

"If they have that consciousness, it will be easy to achieve those goals," Calonzo said. "And we're hoping that their consciousness within the school would be expanded to their households and neighborhoods."

By reducing waste to zero in school, the students and the administrators would be addressing the perennial problem of cities in disposing volumes of garbage, one source of global warming, the group said.

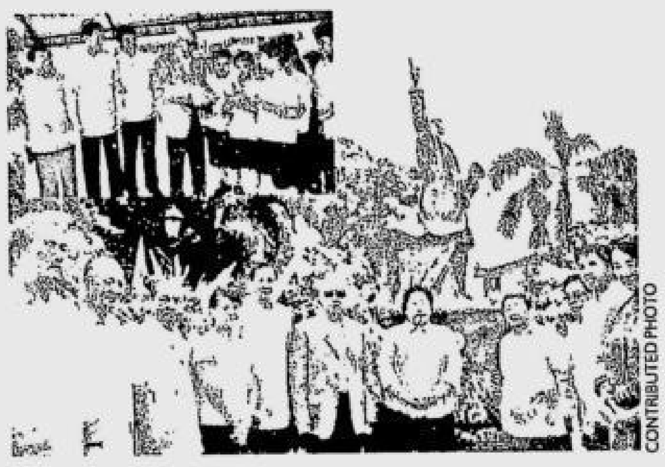
The guide proposes that administrators and students promote ecological awareness, push for programs that reduce the generation of wastes and toxic materials, implement best practices in solid waste management, and support sustainable livelihood opportunities for recycling projects.

go Zero WASTE
to prevent climate change!
Coalition

STUDENTS, teachers, environmentalists and beauty queens team up at the Ramon Magsaysay High school in Cubao, Quezon City, to launch guide to zero waste schools as a concrete contribution to ongoing efforts to stop environmental degradation and climate change.

JOAN BONDOC

HONORING PLARIDEL
The 157th birth anniversary of Filipino patriot Marcelo H. del Pilar (aka Plaridel) was commemorated on Aug. 30 with a wreathlaying ceremony at the Plaridel monument in Malate, Manila, with Mayor Alfredo Lim (sixth from left) and Samahang Plaridel officers leading the simple rites. Inset shows Mayor Lim distributing booklets on Plaridel to pupils of Plaridel Elementary School.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lucky SPD cops to undergo training in intel work in US

By Julie M. Aurelio

POLICEMEN ASSIGNED TO CITIES IN SOUTHern Metro Manila may soon get a chance to train in law enforcement, California-style.

Southern Police District director Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales recently announced that he is talking with police officials in Butte County, California on joint training opportunities for SPD cops.

Only policemen without administrative or criminal records will be considered for the training program.

If talks push through, around 30 select policemen from the SPD will fly to the United States and train for three to four weeks on investigation and intelligence-gathering.

"I had initial talks with concerned officials and we will soon be drafting the terms of agreement," Rosales said in an interview.

The district director met with Butte County officials when he went on a trip to the United States two months ago.

The SPD covers the cities of Makati, Pasay, Taguig, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, and Parañaque, as well as the lone municipality of Pateros.

Rosales said the potential trainees will be screened and evaluated to see if they are qualified for the US-based training.

"Those who have figured in a number of cases, especially major ones, will not be considered except for those who only acted in self-defense," he added.

Apart from polishing their skills in intelligence-gathering and investigation, the chosen ones will also be briefed on the proper management of their resources.

Rosales added that the policemen will only have to pay for their airfare. The rest of the expenses would be shouldered by the SPD. They will also receive an allowance for the duration of their stay in the US.

Girl undergoing chemo needs help

CHARINA LLERA'S LEFT EYE was removed due to a malignant tumor outgrowth that developed when she was 2 years old.

After losing one eye for almost two years now, the 4-year-old fisherman's daughter from Barangay Osmeña, Cleveria, Masbate, is now undergoing a series of treatments to help alleviate the pain.

LLERA

Charina is undergoing an 18-cycle of chemotherapy and radiotherapy sessions at the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City.

The total cost per cycle is P6,400.

"*Iko-cobalt na rin po siya sa loob ng 25 araw mula* Sept. 11. P300 a day *po ang bayad. Humihingi po kami ng tulong sa mga may mabubuting kalooban. Wala kaming kapera-pera. Lumuwas lang po kami ng Maynila para maipagamot siya,*" Llera's 30-year-old mother Lorie said.

Mother and daughter have taken shelter for one year now at the Child House Foundation of beauty expert Ricky Reyes at the back of Quezon Institute, Quezon City.

Those who want to help Charina can call 414-2421 or 0928-4533938. Donations can be deposited at Landbank, Account Number 3106-0126-94.

Santiago Alcantara

Apology in time saves erring American from deportation

By Tarra Quismundo

AN APOLOGY AND A TOUCHING tale spared an American from deportation and a stiff fine after he allegedly hit the roof and vent his anger on immigration officials at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 2 yesterday.

Immigration officials, bristling after they said they were at the receiving end of tirades from Terry David Brink, eventually pardoned the American after he apologized and attributed his outburst to a medical condition.

The officials were also apparently moved by Brink's story that he was here to help repair the house of his Filipino wife's family in Agusan del Norte, airport immigration chief Ferdinand Sampol said.

"He was disrespectful to our immigration officers. We would have boarded him on the next flight back to the US but he apologized and explained that he had a condition, that he was already stressed because of the long flight, and that he came here to repair the house of his wife's family," said Sampol.

Brink, who flew in via a Philippine Airlines flight from Los Angeles, was told to move to another line by immigration officer Victor Ferrer as he had queued up for the counter for the processing of travel papers of Filipinos.

"I was about to process his travel documents when he let out a stream of unsavory words," Ferrer said. "He was told to calm down but he instead answered in a loud voice and shouted curses," said Ferrer in his report.

The American was excluded from the line and brought to the immigration office for questioning.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan, who had come to send off President Macapagal-Arroyo who was on her way to Australia, got wind of the incident and asked to see Brink.

Apologizing for his behavior, Brink was sent on his way after immigration officers listened to his story, waiving the P50,000 fine he would have paid so it could be used for his repair project in Agusan.

Frat ...

From page A21

involved in recruiting Mendez had disappeared.

An autopsy revealed that Mendez was badly beaten, bolstering initial suspicions that his death was related to initiation rites for fraternity neophytes.

On Wednesday, the NCPAG withdrew its recognition of Ariel Paolo Ante as chair of the college's student council for loss of confidence and dereliction of duty. Brillantes said Ante, a Sigma Rho officer, was an "aggressive" recruiter for the fraternity.

Some NCPAG students reportedly executed a sworn statement attesting that Ante recruited Mendez to Sigma Rho, according to the NBI.

Lawyer Romulo Asis, chief of the NBI Anti-Terrorism Division, said they received information the sworn statement was now with the UP legal department.

Since Mendez's body was brought to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center on Aug. 27, Ante and other Sigma Rho members had not appeared to explain their side.

Asis said they were trying to get a copy of the alleged document from the UP legal department.

METRO
Citizen's Call
Our City of Affections and Disaffections is made up of stories.
Your stories. Tell us all about it.

- Did a signage make your day?
- Garbage dumped on your street unmake your day?
- Street diggings forever on the street where you live?
- Are you up in arms against the demolition of an ancestral house?
- Awed by a little-known barangay project with a big positive impact in your community?
- Got stuck in potholes?
- Fed up with cussing and feuding neighbors?
- Is there an everyday role model in your neighborhood?
- Delightful/dreadful finds on your way to work?

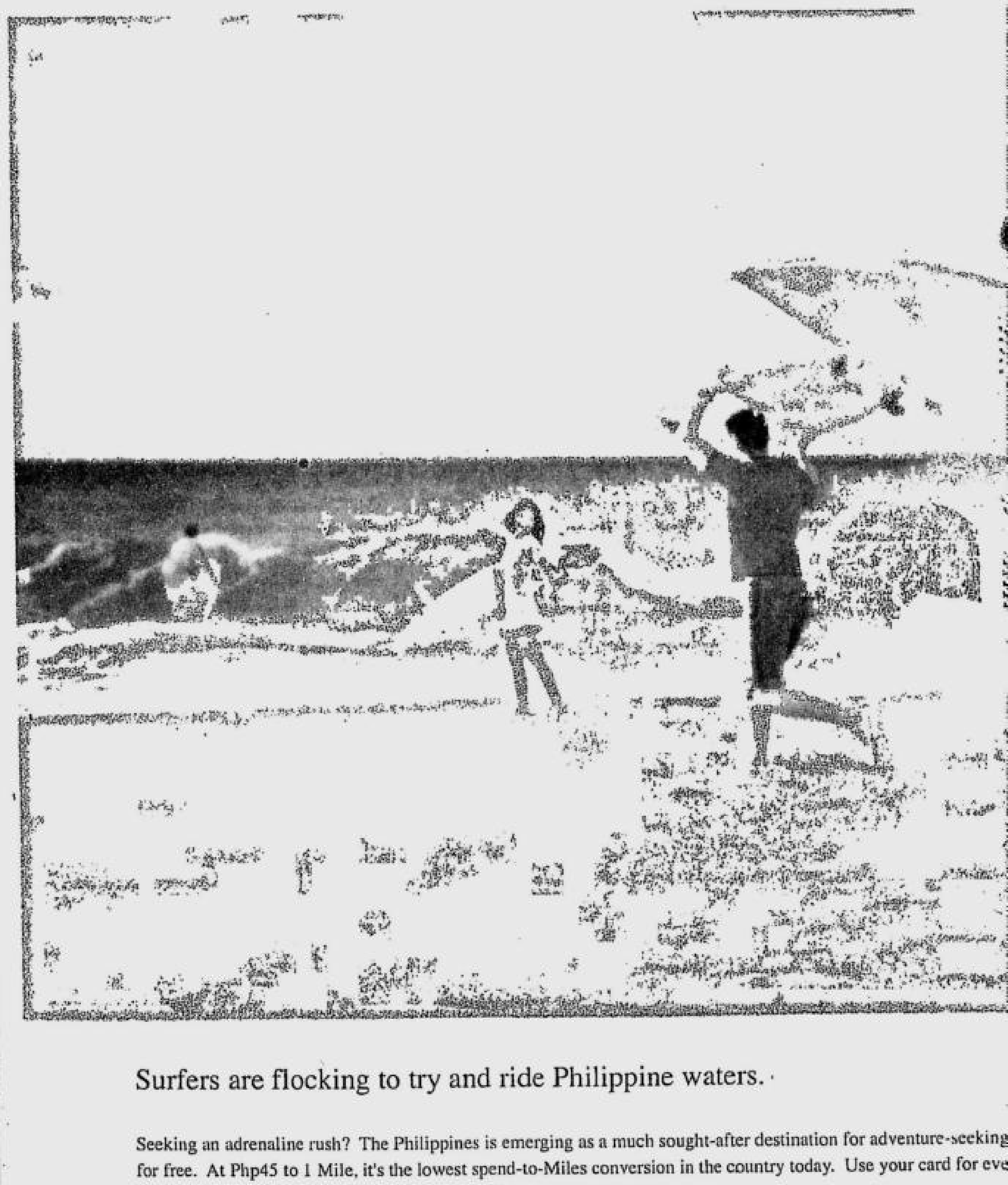
Tell, text us about it. With photos, if you will. Share the good news where you are—and the bad. Being involved is the only way to make Metro Manila a safer, saner, healthier and an exciting place to live in.

JUST TEXT SMS: ccall name/age/location <message>
MMS: <insert photo> ccall name/age/location <caption/message>

0918-8985566

P.S. Please don't send tips on criminal activities and scams. Call the police.

INQUIRER



Surfers are flocking to try and ride Philippine waters.

Seeking an adrenaline rush? The Philippines is emerging as a much sought-after destination for adventure-seeking
for free. At Php45 to 1 Mile, it's the lowest spend-to-Miles conversion in the country today. Use your card for eve

Don't worry if you don't have enough Miles to fly -- you can buy the Bonus Points you need to convert to Miles (
Miles Visa and FastFlights now. Sige ka, sayang ang Miles!

Report pins Israel for Lebanon war civilian deaths

JERUSALEM—INDISCRIMINATE Israeli shelling caused most of the Lebanese civilian deaths in last year's war, Human Rights Watch said on Thursday.

The findings, in a new report by the New York-based group, challenged Israel's argument that Hezbollah guerrillas were to blame for fighting within Lebanese towns and villages during the 34-day conflict in July and August 2006.

Citing five months of research in areas hit by Israeli air strikes and artillery, Human Rights Watch said it found no evidence of Hezbollah guerrillas systematically using civilians as "human shields."

The group, which also condemned Hezbollah rocket attacks on Israel, faulted Israeli forces for attacking political and social wings of the Iranian-backed Shiite movement.

"Hezbollah fighters often didn't carry their weapons in the open or regularly wear military uniforms, which made them a hard target to identify," Human Rights Watch executive director Kenneth Roth said in a statement ahead of the report's release.

"But this doesn't justify the Israel Defense Forces' failure to distinguish between civilians and combatants, and if in doubt to treat a person as a civilian, as the laws of war require."

Some 1,200 people in Lebanon, including around 270 guerrillas, died in the war, which was triggered by a deadly Hezbollah border raid. Also killed were 158 Israelis, most of them military personnel.

Israel said its forces, which overran Hezbollah's strongholds, had acted lawfully.

"We conform with accepted norms in the conduct of military conflict and we conformed with the accepted norms in the conduct of the rules of war," said Mark Regev, spokesperson for Israel's Foreign Ministry.

Regev cited UN relief coordinator Jan Egeland, who told CNN on July 26, 2006 that Hezbollah guerrillas were unlawfully "shielding themselves close to UN posts and close to the civilian population." Egeland also condemned Israel's tactics.

Regev said: "Hezbollah had a clear pattern of behavior where it embedded itself among the Lebanese civilian population and exploited it as human shields. This is not just the Israeli understanding."

Human Rights Watch said Hezbollah mostly operated away from civilians. It said Hezbollah on some occasions endangered noncombatants by firing rockets from, or storing weapons in, populated areas, but that this did not constitute "shielding." Israel often warned civilians to flee areas of suspected Hezbollah activity before launching military strikes, Human Rights Watch noted. But, it said many civilians were unable to leave and that Israel should have taken this into account.

"Issuing warnings doesn't make indiscriminate attacks lawful," Roth said. *Reuters*

Burma monks take 20 security troops hostage

RANGOON—HUNDREDS OF Buddhist monks have taken about 20 members of Burma's security forces hostage inside their monastery, one day after clashes broke out at an antijunta protest, residents said Thursday.

The security forces came to the monastery to apologize for the violence Wednesday in the central town of Pakokku, about 500 km north of the country's commercial capital Rangoon, residents said by telephone.

At least three monks were injured after security forces fired shots into the air and used bamboo sticks to disperse a crowd of 300 monks who were protesting against a massive hike in fuel prices, they said.

The monks locked the security forces inside the monastery and set four of their vehicles on fire, the residents said.

"The monks told the people in the town not to participate in this matter. They want to solve the problem themselves," one resident said.

The gates to the Aletaik monastery, where about 700 monks live, have been locked since 10:30 a.m., the residents said.

All the town's shops had closed as hundreds of people poured into the streets to applaud the monks from outside the gate, one resident said.

"The security forces outside the monastery are too afraid to go near the crowd. They won't even show their walkie talkies," said another resident.

"I fully support the monks. They were just peacefully praying for the people. The monks are absolutely right," he said. "I'm surprised that these security people would dare to harm Buddhist monks in this country."

Monks are important cultural standard-bearers in this devoutly Buddhist nation, also known as Myanmar. Their participation was credited with helping to bring popular support to a pro-democracy uprising in 1988.

Those protests were brutally crushed by the military, when soldiers opened fire on the crowds in the streets of Rangoon and killed hundreds, if not thousands.

The protest Wednesday in Pakokku was the first time that uniformed soldiers are believed to have been deployed to break up one of the near-daily protests that have erupted around the country since Aug. 19. *AFP*

THE PRINCE AND I

Japanese Princess Kiko holding her son Hisahito on her arrival at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on Sept. 6. Prince Hisahito, the Japanese imperial family's first male heir to be born in 41 years, celebrated his first birthday on Thursday. AP

Study finds US Jews distance selves from Israel

CHICAGO—YOUNG US NON-Orthodox Jews are becoming increasingly lukewarm if not alienated in their support for Israel in a trend that is not likely to be reversed, according to a study released on Thursday.

Blending into US society, including marriage to non-Jews and a tendency to look on Judaism more in religious terms than ethnic ones, is part of what's happening, the study found.

"For our parent's generation, the question that mattered was, how do we regard Israel? For Generation Y (born after 1976) the question is indeed, why should we regard Israel?" said Roger Bennett, a vice president of The Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies, which sponsored the study.

"Until people recognize that a healthy and animated dialogue about Israel is the first step to a meaningful connection, the 'Israel debate' that takes place in America is liable to become moot well before Israel celebrates its 100th birthday," he added.

US support backed by a vocal and politically powerful Jewish lobby has been a key feature of the Jewish state's success since its founding in 1948, an event that is widely backed by US Jews and non-Jews.

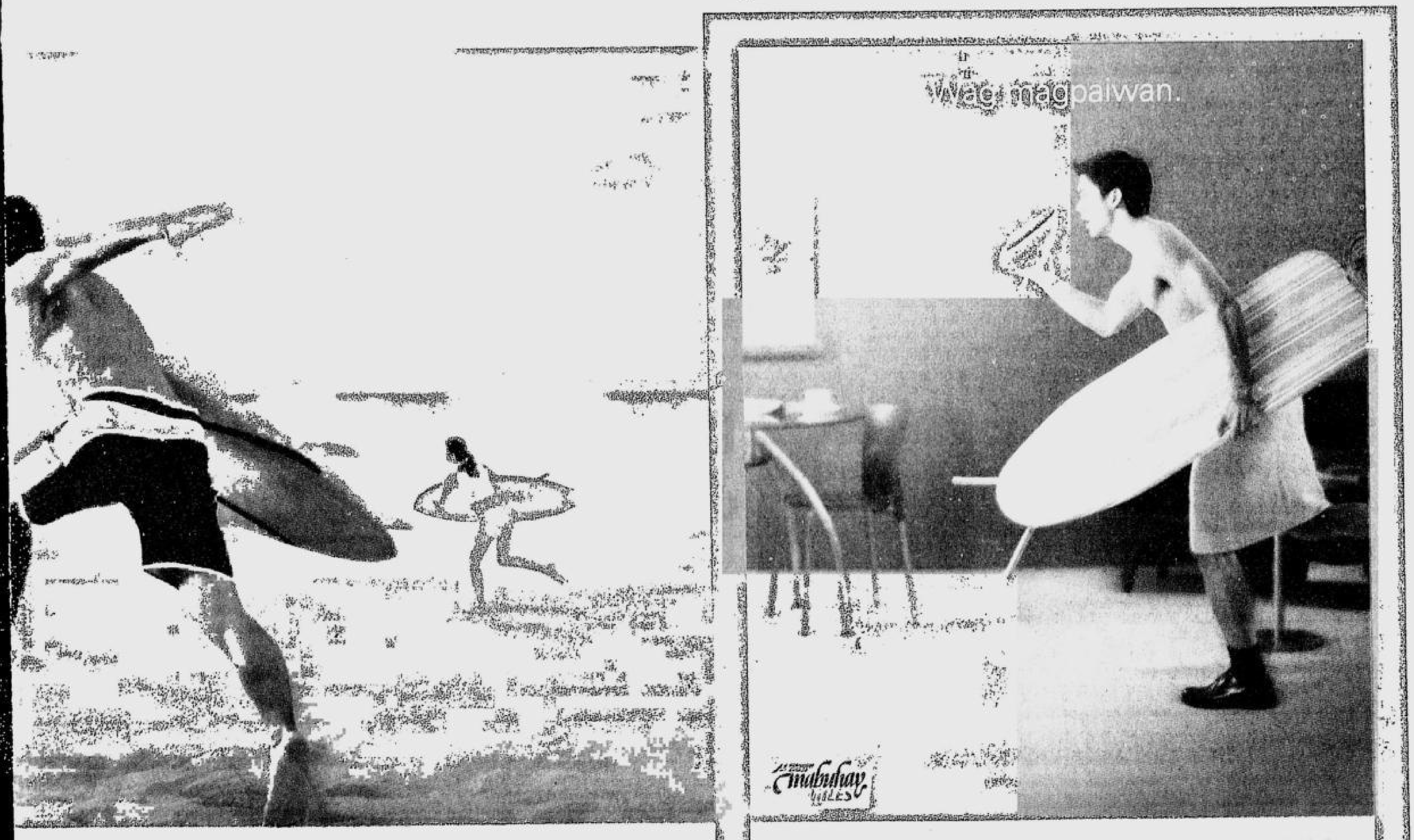
But the study found that "feelings of attachment may well be changing as warmth gives way to indifference, and indifference gives way even to downright alienation."

The study found only 48 percent of US Jews under age 35 believe that Israel's destruction would be a personal tragedy for them, compared to 77 percent of those 65 and older.

In addition, only 54 percent of those under the age of 35 are "comfortable with the idea of a Jewish State" as opposed to 81 percent of those 65 and older.

It did find higher levels of support among US Jews, regardless of age, who had visited Israel.

There are perhaps 6 million Jews in the United States, only about a third of them affiliated with a congregation. Of those who do attend a synagogue, perhaps 40 percent are classified as liberal Reform, 32 percent middle-ground Conservative and 8 percent Orthodox, according to surveys. *Reuters*



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US general sanctioned in Haditha slays

IRAQI children fleeing their country for Syria on a bus. AFP

WASHINGTON—A TWO STAR general and two other officers were censured Wednesday for failing to promptly investigate the killings of 24 civilians at Haditha, Iraq, but were cleared of a coverup, the military said.

The US Marine Corps said "letters of censure" were issued by the secretary of the Navy to the former commanding general of the 2nd Marine Division, Major General Richard Huck, and two colonels—a regimental commander and Huck's former chief of staff.

Lieutenant General James Mattis, who reviewed their performance, "did not find any evidence that these senior officers intended to cover up the incident," the Marines said in a statement.

"He did determine that their actions, or inactions, demonstrated lack of due diligence on the part of senior commanders and staff."

A secretarial letter of censure is the severest form of administrative sanction, and goes into an officer's official military record.

A senior Marine officer, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity, said it would be "very difficult" for an officer to be promoted after receiving such a letter. It could also lead to their retirement at a lower grade.

Navy Secretary Donald Winter signed the letters of censure on Wednesday, the officer said.

Marine Commandant General James Conway said in a statement the officers' "actions, their inactions, and decisions in the aftermath of the Haditha incident did not meet the high standards we expect of Marine senior officer leadership."

Marines killed 24 Iraqi civilians at Haditha on Nov. 19, 2005 but commanders did not investigate the deaths until the following February after an investigative report into the killings by Time magazine.

"The essential issue was that … no investigation was initiated immediately," the Marine officer said.

The Marines had initially claimed in a press release that 15 civilians were killed in the roadside explosion that also killed a Marine on patrol.

But Time found witnesses who said the Marines went on a rampage after the Marine was killed. *AFP*

Panel sees 12 to 18 months before Iraq can handle security

WASHINGTON—A REPORT BY AN INDEPENDENT commission created by Congress says that it will be at least 12 to 18 months before Iraq's army and police can take charge of the country's security, pushing further into the future estimates of when American forces can step back from their leading role.

The finding is the latest in a series of ever-lengthening predictions by American officials about when Iraqi forces might be able to operate independently. In February, a national intelligence estimate also put the timeline as at least a year. Since 2005, senior American military commanders in Iraq have said that Iraq's security forces would soon be able to take the leading security role in parts of the country.

The 20-member commission, headed by retired Gen. James L. Jones of the Marines, found that the Iraqi armed forces, especially the army, were steadily improving but still suffering from "limited operational effectiveness," according to a copy of the panel's report that was being circulated Wednesday in advance of its formal release.

The assessment is to be made public at a congressional hearing on Thursday, and it is likely to become the newest focus in intensive jockeying between Democrats and Republicans over whether limited gains from the current American strategy in Iraq mean that the United States should shift course.

Democrats, who are pressing for a speedy reduction of American combat troops in Iraq, may use the report to argue for shifting additional resources into training Iraqi police and army units. Democratic lawmakers who have returned recently from Iraq have called attention to what they called surprising improvements in the Iraqi army, which they contend can allow the United States to draw down rapidly without leaving Iraq in chaos.

The report provided some basis for that view, saying that while there had been "uneven progress" overall in the military and the police, there also "should be increasing improvement in both their readiness and their capability to provide for the internal security of Iraq."

The report by the commission was most harshly critical of the Iraqi police, calling them "incapable" of protecting Iraqi neighborhoods. In a finding that was initially reported last week, the panel called for the disbanding the Shiite-dominated 26,000-member national police, which the report said was crippled by public distrust and sectarianism. *NYT*

A MEMBER of the African Mission in Sudan stands guard during a visit of the United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon to the internally displaced persons of the Al Salam camp on Sept. 5 in El Fasher, in the Sudanese region of Darfur. AFP

UN chief: World hasn't done enough to end war, human suffering in Darfur

AL-FASHER, SUDAN—UNITED NAtions chief Ban Ki-moon visited the strife-torn Sudanese region of Darfur Wednesday, admitting the international community has not done enough to end four years of war and human suffering.

Ban, who is in Sudan to jumpstart the Darfur peace process ahead of a massive UN-African Union peacekeeping operation, arrived in the North Darfur capital of Al-Fasher to witness firsthand the plight of those displaced by the conflict.

"For too long the international community has stood by, as seemingly helpless witnesses. That is now changing," Ban had said in a speech in the southern Sudanese capital of Juba on Tuesday.

The UN Secretary General has been pushing for negotiations alongside the peacekeeping operation, and said details were being worked out for talks between the Khartoum government and Darfur rebel groups that did not sign a troubled May 2006 peace agreement.

"As far as the political negotiation process is concerned, we are coming close to agreeing on a venue and date," Ban told reporters travelling with him. "I hope I'll be able to finalise it very soon." A UN official said on condition of anonymity that the talks were likely to take place in October, "somewhere in Africa, perhaps in Tanzania." After talks with the governor of North Darfur, Ban was met by a small demonstration as he made his way to the UN mission headquarters for discussions with representatives of the more than two million displaced people in Darfur.

Several dozen men and women, who said they too had been driven from their homes, protested at being excluded from the talks.

"Darfur is ours," they shouted. "We want to be represented." The soft-spoken UN chief reassured the demonstrators he was ready to listen to anyone, before being ushered away by his security detail.

After a brief delay, Ban resumed his schedule, including a meeting with three representatives of the displaced and another with civil society and traditional leaders, the UN said in a statement.

Later during a visit to the Al-Salam camp near Al-Fasher, Ban was greeted by refugees chanting the name of Abdel Wahid Nur, the rebel leader still refusing to take part in negotiations with Khartoum.

Nur boycotted peace talks at the Tanzanian city of Arusha this month, where eight rebel groups agreed a common platform for peace talks with the Sudan's government, sponsored by the UN and the African Union. Ban called on Nur to join the political process.

The UN estimates that at least 200,000 people have died in Darfur since an uprising launched by ethnic minority rebels in 2003 drew a scorched earth response from the Sudanese military and allied militias. *AFP*

Prescription drug abuse grows in US

WASHINGTON—MORE YOUNG U.S. adults are abusing prescription medications, particularly painkillers, according to the government's annual report on substance abuse released on Thursday.

Overall, in 2006, 22.6 million people -- 9.2 percent of Americans ages 12 and up -- either abused or were addicted to drugs or alcohol in the prior year, according to estmates in the report from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

That is up slightly from an estimated 22.2 million people, or 9.1 percent of the population, in last year's report.

The 2006 report found that non-medical use of prescription drugs, mostly pain relievers, among young adults increased from 5.4 percent in 2002 to 6.4 percent in 2006.

"The abuse of prescription drugs for non-medical reasons is of increasing concern," agency chief Terry Cline said in a statement.

"These are potent drugs that can have serious and life-threatening consequences if misused. Parents in particular need to be aware of this problem and take steps to prevent these medications from falling into the wrong hands," Cline added.

The agency said 3.2 million Americans were dependent on or abused both alcohol and illicit drugs and 3.8 million were dependent on or abused illicit drugs but not alcohol.

Another 15.6 million were dependent on or abused alcohol but not illicit drugs, the agency added.

The report showed that fewer adolescents ages 12 to 17 said they had used illicit drugs in the prior month -- the rate dropped from 11.6 percent in 2002 to 9.9 percent in 2005 and 9.8 percent in 2006. *Reuters*

Britain to allow creation of human-animal embryos

LONDON—BRITAIN'S FERTILITY regulator decided in principle Wednesday to allow scientists to create human-animal hybrid embryos for research purposes, as experts downplayed ethical concerns.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) gave the go-ahead to controversial plans to create "cytoplasmic" embryos, which merge a tiny bit of human DNA with eggs from animals such as cattle or rabbits.

Scientists argue such research could pave the way for therapies for diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

Applications to proceed with such work from researchers at Newcastle University in northeast England and King's College London can now be appraised by a licence committee in November.

An HFEA consultation out earlier this week found people were "at ease" with the proposals once the possible implications had been explained.

An HFEA spokeswoman accepted public opinion was divided and said their decision was a tough one to make.

"This is not a total green light for hybrid research, but recognition that this area of research can, with caution and careful scrutiny, be permitted," she said.

The use and destruction of embryos in research is a highly sensitive subject in the United States, for political and religious reasons.

US President George W. Bush has twice vetoed a bill seeking to allow federal funds for stem cell research as it would involve human embryo destruction.

Some experts backed the decision, while a government minister welcomed it.

"It does seem a little abhorrent at first analysis," said Newcastle University's Doctor Lyle Armstrong, who helped to create the world's first cloned human embryo in 2005.

"But you have to understand we are using very, very little information from the cow in order to do this reprogramming idea.

"It's not our intention to create any bizarre cow-human hybrid, we want to use those cells to understand how to make human stem cells better." The government's minister for science and innovation Ian Pearson added that the decision was "in the best interests of science." "The creation of cytoplasmic hybrid embryos offers an important experimental tool in the search for new treatments for currently incurable diseases such as Parkinson's Disease," he said. *AFP*

HARRISON, 18, charged with murder Sept. 5. AP

Student dies in fight with roommate

PHOENIX—AN 18-YEAR-OLD student died Wednesday after an early morning fight with another woman who had been her roommate, in their dormitory room at the University of Arizona in Tucson, the police said.

The university police identified the dead woman as Mia Henderson, a freshman and member of the Navajo Nation in northern Arizona. She apparently died of stab wounds, said Sgt. Eugene Mejia of the campus police.

The roommate, also an 18-year-old from the Navajo Nation, was treated on Wednesday at a hospital for injuries that were not life threatening, Mejia said.

The campus police declined to release the name of the roommate, who is also a freshman. *NYT*

Russia to sign $1-billion defense deal with Indonesia

JAKARTA, INDONESIA—RUSsia's military clout in Asia was set for a boost Thursday when President Vladimir Putin witnesses the signing of a US$1 billion defense deal that will help Indonesia purchase dozens of helicopters, tanks and submarines.

The two nations also hope that, by strengthening military and economic ties, they will be able to counterbalance growing U.S. influence in global affairs, analysts said.

Putin, making a one-day stopover to the world's most populous Muslim nation, will provide Indonesia's cash-strapped government with a US$1 billion loan, repayable over the next 15 years, officials said.

It will receive 15 helicopters, 20 tanks, and two submarines, said Defense Minister Juwono Sudarsono.

"Part of this is to reduce our dependency on the United States," which was formerly the country's largest supplier of weaponry, he said.

Putin's visit is the first by a Russian — or Soviet — leader to Indonesia in nearly five decades.

It comes amid chilling relations with the United States, which has criticized Russia's democracy record. Moscow, in turn, distrusts Washington's growing influence in global politics and has courted allies with similar deals.

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin, left, shakes hands with Indonesian generals upon his arrival at a military base outside Jakarta, Indonesia, on Sept. 6. AP

It held joint military exercises with China — the first ever on Russian soil — several weeks ago and has negotiated agreements with Malaysia and other countries across the region to buy fighter jets.

Putin said he was especially eager to strengthen ties with Indonesia, a sprawling nation with more than 200 million Muslims. A series of other energy deals worth billions of dollars also will be clinched on Thursday.

"We are ready to enhance cooperation with all interested parties to building an equitable world order, ensuring stability and security at both global and regional levels," the Russian leader wrote in an opinion piece that appeared Thursday in The Jakarta Post. *AP*

Hyundai boss escapes jail over huge slush fund

SEOUL—THE HEAD OF THE WORLD'S sixth largest automaker on Thursday escaped a jail sentence for creating a multimillion-dollar slush fund, after an appeals court ruled that his imprisonment would badly damage South Korea's economy.

The Seoul high court quashed a three-year prison sentence on Hyundai Automotive Group chair Chung Mong-koo and replaced it with a suspended sentence.

It ordered him to undertake community service—including delivering speeches on the need for ethics in business—and make good on his pledge to donate one billion dollars to charity.

"The court has been agonizing over whether to put the accused in jail or keep him out of prison," said chief judge Lee Jae-Hong.

"But in consideration of the huge economic impact that could result from imprisonment, it decided to suspend the sentence." Chung, 69, had been sentenced to jail in February for breach of trust and embezzling 90 billion won ($97 million) in company funds through fraudulent accounting. He had been free on bail pending appeal.

He displayed no emotion after the ruling and declined to answer questions. Business leaders and Hyundai hailed the decision but activists campaigning to clean up the country's corporate culture expressed dismay.

The group, which includes affiliate Kia Motors, controls 70 percent of the South Korean auto market and accounts for 5.4 percent of gross domestic product.

Suspending the sentence for five years, the court ordered Chung to make speeches and write articles on the need for businessmen to obey the law.

Prosecutors accused the Chung family of raising the slush fund through a Hyundai Motor unit to bribe government officials, politicians and bankers in return for business favors.

They had urged the appeals court to double the original jail term.

"We are greatly relieved that this matter is finally over," Hyundai said in a statement. "We can now devote our full energies to addressing the numerous challenges that face us and building a global brand.

"We look forward to honoring our commitments made earlier to expanding our corporate social responsibility, the funding of charitable causes and improving management transparency."

Chung had admitted the existence of the slush fund but said he was not directly involved in embezzlement. He had said he felt "ashamed and sorry" for failing to correct past malpractices.

The massive conglomerates, known as chaebol, spearheaded the economy's dramatic recovery from the ruins of the 1950-53 Korean war. But their business practices were blamed for helping trigger the financial crisis of the late 1990s.

"The court gave an indulgence for criminal activity and corporate corruption by businessmen," Park Kun-yong, of the People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy, said.

"The ruling reminds us again that chaebol can get away with anything. Our country must not tolerate business misconduct by chaebol any longer." Kang Chul-Koo, general director of the Korea Automobile Manufacturers Association, welcomed the decision.

"As global competition in the auto industry is getting tougher and tougher every day, the court has given chair Chung an opportunity to make contributions to the country's auto industry and economy," he said.

South Korean auto exports last year were worth $43.2 billion.

Chung's lawyers have said the slush fund was spent helping improve the productivity and morale of employees and expanding sales networks, as well as for making donations to politicians.

Chung took over the group in 1999 and aims to make it the world's number five carmaker. Analysts credit him with transforming it into a leading global brand by focusing on quality.

But it has been plagued by labor disputes and growing price competition from its Japanese rivals due to the strong Korean won.

Net profit plunged 34 percent to 1.53 trillion won last year. *AFP*

Milestones in chairman's fraud case

CHUNG Mong-koo, chairman of Hyundai Motor group, on trial for embezzlement on Sept. 6. REUTERS

HERE ARE THE MILESTONES Chung's legal case.

- 1970: Chung joins Hyundai Motor as a director at the Seoul office.
- 1978: Chung and his late father and Hyundai founder Chung Ju-yung are cleared after an investigation into corrupt property deals. Chung Mong-koo is arrested and jailed for 75 days over construction regulations infringements, but freed on a 5 million won ($5,334) fine.
- 1999: Chung Mong-koo becomes chair of Hyundai Motor Group.
- Aug. 4, 2003: Chung Mong-hun, Chung Mong-koo's younger brother and then chair of Hyundai Asan, jumps to his death while facing trial over an alleged $500 million secret "cash for summit" payment to Pyongyang before the landmark June 2000 North/South summit. He was also accused of doctoring company books and embezzling 15 billion won.
- June 18, 2004: Hyundai Motor Group vice chair Kim Dong-jin and Korean Air chief executive Cho Yang-ho are given suspended two-year and one-year jail terms respectively, for raising a slush fund to support politicians in the 2002 presidential race. Both get to keep their jobs.
- March 26, 2006: South Korean prosecutors raid Hyundai group units such as Hyundai Motor and Kia Motors Corp. over a probe into suspected illegal political lobbying.
- April. 19, 2006: Hyundai Motor says the Chung family will donate $1 billion in shares of the group's auto shipping affiliate Glovis Co. Ltd. to atone for the bribery scandal.
- April 28, 2006: Chung is arrested on charges of misusing company funds.
- May 16, 2006: South Korea indicts Chung, who is officially charged with breach of trust and embezzling 103.4 billion won in company funds, some for personal use, and for incurring losses at group companies by forcing them to support weaker affiliates.
- June 28, 2006: Chung is released on $1-million bail.
- Jan. 16, 2007: Prosecutors demand a six-year jail term for Chung.
- Feb. 5, 2007: Chung is found guilty of breach of trust and embezzling company funds and sentenced to three years in jail.
- Feb. 12, 2007: Prosecutors and Chung appeal the three-year jail sentence.
- Jun. 19, 2007: Prosecutors seek to double the jail sentence for Chung to 6 years.
- Sept. 6, 2007: South Korea's appeals court upholds the lower court conviction and hands Chung a 3-year jail term suspended for 5 years.

Source: Reuters and Hyundai Motor Group

Over 40 Taliban killed in Afghanistan

KABUL—AFGHAN and US-led coalition forces killed more than 40 insurgents in a 12-hour battle in a restive southern province, taking the guerrilla death toll to nearly 200 in a fortnight, the US military said on Thursday.

Suspected Islamist Taliban insurgents ambushed a coalition patrol in villages in Kandahar province's Shah Wali Kot district with small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades, the US military said in a statement.

Kandahar has been the site of repeated clashes in recent months.

"The extremist fighters were visually observed firing on the patrol from compounds located within the villages," the statement said.

"Throughout the engagement, insurgents reinforced their positions with an estimated 150 additional fighters. Coalition aircraft destroyed the positively identified enemy firing positions with precision guided munitions."

The Taliban said they were unaware of any ground fighting in the Shah Wali Kot district on Wednesday, but said they had downed an American helicopter in the area. *Reuters*

PSALM
POWER SECTOR
ASSETS & LIABILITIES
MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (*"PSALM"*) Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee (*the "Committee"*) invites interested parties to participate in and bid for the privatization of the following:

The Generation Package consisting of the 192.5 MW Palinpinon Geothermal Power Plant located in Puhagan, Valencia, Negros Oriental and the 146.5 MW Panay Diesel Power Plant located in Tinocuan, Dingle, Iloilo

(*the* "Asset"). The Asset is being privatized on an "as is where is" basis and will include a power supply allocation. The Committee reserves the right at any time prior to the Documentary Deliverables Deadline (as defined in the Bidding Procedures) to determine the final Asset to be sold. Hence, the Asset that will be the subject of the bid may consist of both the Palinpinon Plant and the Panay Plant, the Palinpinon Plant alone, or the Panay Plant alone.

Interested parties must submit a Letter of Interest (*"LOI"*) to the Committee which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. All LOIs must be received by the Committee at the PSALM Office with address at the 7th Floor Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than **5:00 p.m. on 17 September 2007** (the *"LOI Submission Deadline"*). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 78 of RA 9136, both in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand U.S. Dollars (U.S.$ 2,000.00) (the *"Participation Fee"*). The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall be for the account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking, and Participation Fee must be received by the Committee on or before **5:00 p.m. on 19 September 2007** to entitle an interested party further participation in the privatization of the Asset.

The Bidding Package which includes the Bidding Procedures shall be issued during office hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from **17 September until 26 September 2007** (the *"Deadline"*) at the PSALM Office. Only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline or consortium (as described below) will be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

Interested parties that submit the LOI must be the party that will participate in the privatization process, submit a bid and enter into the pertinent agreements. Once an interested party submits the Confidentiality Agreement and Undertaking and pays the Participation Fee, such interested party may no longer be substituted in the privatization process, except through a consortium in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Bidding Procedures, among the requirements of which are (i) such interested party must own at least a majority of the shares outstanding and entitled to vote in such consortium; (ii) the consortium must be a juridical entity; and (iii) a letter requesting to bid through consortium must be submitted to the Committee on or before the deadline set for the same in the Bidding Procedures.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Due Diligence : 17 September 2007 to 3 December 2007
Pre-Bid Conference : 28 September 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the PSALM Office
Bid Submission Deadline : 5 December, 12:00 noon at the PSALM Office

References to the dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. Interested Parties will be required to post a bid security equivalent to Eight Million U.S. Dollars (U.S.$8,000,000.00) in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit which must be acceptable to the Committee. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted by a performance security to guaranty prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction. The details of the privatization of the Asset are contained in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 7th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr. Froilan A. Tampinco at the PSALM Office or at telefax number (632) 892-6029 or e-mail address fatampinco@psalm.gov.ph.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proposals or bids therefrom, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer advantageous to the Government, without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the privatization process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the privatization process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without giving prior notice. Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

(Sgd.) **ANGELO T. REYES**
Chairman
PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 7, 8 & 9, 2007)

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) announces that

I. Pursuant to its policy and practice, the following first five qualified Associate Justices of the Court of Appeals are automatically considered for nomination for the position of **ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT** vice Hon. Cancio C. Garcia, who will compulsorily retire on 20 October 2007: Acting Presiding Justice **CONRADO M. VASQUEZ JR.** and Associate Justices **PORTIA ALIÑO-HORMACHUELOS; MARTIN S. VILLARAMA, JR.; ANDRES B. REYES, JR.**; and **REMEDIOS SALAZAR-FERNANDO**. The other candidates are Secretary **ARTURO D. BRION**; Justice **EDGARDO P. CRUZ**; Presiding Justice **TERESITA LEONARDO-DE CASTRO**; Justice **TERESITA DY-LIACCO FLORES**; Justice **JOSE L. SABIO, JR.**; Justice **EDILBERTO G. SANDOVAL**; and Justice **FRANCISCO H. VILLARUZ, JR.**

Conformably with Section 1, Rule 7 of the Rules of the JBC (JBC-009), as amended, the public is hereby invited to the panel interview of Justices **REMEDIOS S. FERNANDO** and **JOSE L. SABIO, JR.**, on **September 28, 2007 at 9:00** a.m. at the Division Hearing Room, Ground Floor, New Supreme Court Building. Justice EDGARDO P. CRUZ was already interviewed by the JBC on 19 January 2007, and the rest on March 28 and 29, 2007.

II. The following Senior Associate Justices of the Court of Appeals are also automatically considered for nomination for the position of **PRESIDING JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS** (vice Hon. Ruben T. Reyes, who was appointed as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court on July 25, 2007) and will be publicly interviewed at the Division Hearing Room, Ground Floor, New Supreme Court Building on **September 27, 2007**, together with the other applicant Justice Remedios S. Fernando:

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 NOON	2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
1. **COSICO**, RODRIGO V.	1. **REYES**, ANDRES JR. B.
2. **FERNANDO**, REMEDIOS SALAZAR	2 **VASQUEZ**, CONRADO JR. M.
3. **HORMACHUELOS**, PORTIA ALIÑO	3. **VILLARAMA**, MARTIN JR. S.

The public may submit sworn complaint, written report or opposition against any of the aforesaid candidates for the positions of Supreme Court Associate Justice and Court of Appeals Presiding Justice **NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 17, 2007**, to the JBC Secretariat, 2nd Flr. Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court , Padre Faura St., Manila (Tel. No.552-9512; Fax No.552-9598; e-mail address jbc_supremecourt@yahoo.com.ph).

III. Judgeship positions in the following courts are now open for application or recommendation:

A. Vacant Courts

NCJR
MALABON CITY
RTC Br.170
MARIKINA CITY
RTC Br.263
PASIG CITY
RTC Br.151
QUEZON CITY
METC Brs.31 & 32
MANILA
METC Br.11

REGION I
ABRA
RTC Br. 1, Bangued
MTC Bucay
ILOCOS SUR
4th MCTC Narvacan-Nagbukel-Santa
11th MCTC Sta. Cruz-Sta. Lucia
PANGASINAN
RTC Br. 49, Urdaneta City
MTCC Br.2, Dagupan City

REGION II
CAGAYAN
MTC Baggao
ISABELA
14th MCTC Ramon-San Isidro

REGION III
AURORA
3rd MCTC Baler-San Luis
BATAAN
4th MCTC Bagac-Morong
NUEVA ECIJA
MTC Guimba
TARLAC
1st MCTC Sta. Ignacia-Mayantoc-San Clemente-San Jose
4th MCTC Moncada-San Manuel-Anao

REGION IV
BATANGAS
MTCC Br.1, Lipa City
LAGUNA
RTC Br.28, Sta. Cruz
MARINDUQUE
RTC Br.94, Boac
MINDORO OCCIDENTAL
3rd MCTC Magsaysay-Rizal-Calintaan
PALAWAN
9th MCTC Brooke's Point
QUEZON
5th MCTC Polillo-Panukulan

REGION V
MASBATE
2nd MCTC Mandaon-Balud
SORSOGON
MTC Bulan

REGION VI
ILOILO
RTC Br.39, Iloilo City
NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
MTCC, Kabankalan City

REGION VII
CEBU
MTCC, Lapu-Lapu City

REGION VIII
BILIRAN
RTC Br.16, Naval
NORTHERN SAMAR
5th MCTC Mondragon-San Roque
SOUTHERN LEYTE
RTC Br.25, Maasin City

REGION IX
ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
RTC Br.23, Molave

REGION X
AGUSAN DEL SUR
2nd MCTC Trento-Sta. Josefa-Veruela
REGION XI
COMPOSTELA VALLEY
1st MCTC Compostela-New-Battan
DAVAO DEL SUR
RTC Brs.10 & 15, Davao City
SURIGAO DEL SUR
MTCC Bislig City
MTC Tandag

REGION XII
NORTH COTABATO
3rd MCTC Kabacan-Carmen

B. Courts which will be vacant due to the compulsory retirement of the incumbent judges therein on the dates indicated in parenthesis

NCJR
MANDALUYONG CITY
RTC Br.211 (10/02/07)
QUEZON CITY
RTC Br.94 (12/18/07)

REGION I
BENGUET
RTC Br.4, Baguio City (11/10/07)
PANGASINAN
RTC Br.45, Urdaneta City (11/21/07)
RTC Br.54, Alaminos (11/29/07)

REGION III
PAMPANGA
RTC Br.50, Guagua (09/26/07)

REGION IV
BATANGAS
RTC Br.7, Batangas City (09/19/07)

REGION VI
NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
RTC Br.49, Bacolod City (12/15/07)

REGION X
MISAMIS ORIENTAL
RTC Br.43, Gingoog City (11/10/07)

Applications or recommendations for these positions must be submitted to the JBC on or before OCTOBER 08, 2007, together with six (6) copies of the following:

Application or Recommendation Letter
Personal Data Sheet (JBC Form 1 downloadable from the JBC Website http://jbc.supremecourt.gov.ph)
Proof of Filipino Citizenship
ID Picture (2x2)
Certificate of Good Standing or latest Official Receipt from the IBP National Treasurer
ITR for the past two (2) years
Clearances from NBI, Ombudsman, Office of the Bar Confidant and employer
Transcript of School Records
Police Clearance from place of residence
Certificate of Admission to Bar (with Bar Rating)

06 September 2007.

MDVillarama
MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA
Clerk of Court & JBC
Ex Officio Secretary

(PDI–Sept. 7, 2007)

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

B-52 carried nukes over US by mistake

WASHINGTON—THE US MILITARY SAID ON Wednesday it was investigating an alarming security lapse when a B-52 bomber flew the length of the country last week loaded with six nuclear-armed cruise missiles.

The blunder was reported to President George W. Bush after the nuclear warheads were discovered when the aircraft landed at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, a military official said on condition of anonymity.

An air force official, who also asked to remain unnamed, said the B-52, which originated at Minot Air Base in North Dakota, had six cruise missiles with nuclear warheads loaded on pylons under its wings.

The US Air Force has relieved the munition squadron commander at Minot Air Base in North Dakota of his duties, and launched an investigation into the Aug. 30 incident, a Pentagon spokesperson said.

"At no time was there a threat to public safety," said Lt. Col. Ed Thomas.

"It is important to note that munitions were safe, secure and under military control at all times."

The Pentagon would not provide details, citing secrecy rules, but an expert said the incident was unprecedented, and pointed to a disturbing lapse in the air force's command and control system.

"It seems so fantastic that so many points, checks can dysfunction," he said Hans Kristensen, an expert on US nuclear forces.

"We have so many points and checks specifically so we don't have these kinds of incidents," he said.

US lawmakers expressed outrage at the incident.

"It is absolutely inexcusable that the Air Force lost track of these five nuclear warheads, even for a short period of time," Representative Edward Markey, a Democrat on the House Homeland Security Committee, said in a statement.

"Nothing like this has ever been reported before and we have been assured for decades that it was impossible," said Markey.

Two Republican lawmakers on committees overseeing military affairs, Jim Saxton and Terry Everett, said in a joint statement they were "deeply concerned" by the incident and said the United States must "ensure our nuclear assets are protected by the highest safeguards."

The breach originally was reported by the Military Times newspaper Wednesday and was confirmed by the Pentagon later in the day.

US Defense Secretary Robert Gates was notified early Friday of the incident by Air Force chief of staff Gen. Michael "Buzz" Moseley, Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell said.

"I can also tell you that it was important enough that President Bush was notified of it," Morrell said.

Gates has received daily briefings from Moseley on the incident, and expects a report by the end of next week, he said.

"The munitions squadron commander has been relieved of his duties, and final action is pending the outcome of the investigation," he said.

"In addition, other airmen were decertified from their duties involving munitions." *AFP*

Germany searching for 10 suspects behind attack plot

BERLIN—GERMAN AUTHORITIES were searching Thursday for about 10 suspected supporters of an Islamic group linked to al-Qaida who are believed to have assisted the three militants arrested earlier this week in their foiled bomb plot, an official said.

Authorities believed "some 10" further suspects provided support to the two German converts and a Turkish citizen who were arrested Tuesday on suspicion of plotting attacks on US and other facilities here, August Hanning, a top security official, told ARD broadcaster.

"This is the network that we are aware of at the moment," Hanning said, adding that authorities believe the splintered cell—which includes more converted Germans, Turkish and other citizens—no longer poses a direct security threat.

The three arrested suspects had military-style detonators and enough material to make bombs more powerful than those that killed 191 people in Madrid in 2004 and 52 commuters in London two years ago, prosecutors said Wednesday.

"We were able to succeed in recognizing and preventing the most serious and massive bombings," German Federal Prosecutor Monika Harms said at a news conference. She declined to name specific targets.

In Washington, a senior US State Department official said German investigators had determined the Frankfurt International Airport and the nearby US Ramstein Air Base were the primary targets of the plot, but that those arrested may have also been considering strikes on other sites, particularly facilities associated with the United States.

Germany's announcement was the second in two days that a major attack had been foiled in Europe, after Danish authorities arrested eight alleged Islamic militants with links to senior al-Qaida terrorists. *AP*

THE DAY THE DINOSAURS BEGAN TO DIE
Computer generated simulation shows an asteroid striking the Earth in Mexico's Yucatan peninsula around 65 million years ago. The extinction of the dinosaurs about that time can be traced to a collision between two monster rocks in the asteroid belt nearly 100 million years earlier, scientists reported on Sept. 5.

AFP

It's your city: How will you power it?

SINGAPORE—IF YOU RAN A CITY, WHAT energy source would you use—cheap coal, or costly but environmentally friendly solar power?

As oil prices near record highs, US energy major Chevron is inviting people to deal with a potential future energy supply crunch in an online game called Energyville, which uses real data and scenarios to power a city until 2030.

Players in the free game, designed by The Economist Group, can choose from sources such as biomass, natural gas, nuclear and petroleum, with oil shale and hydrogen being added to the mix by 2015. Players can also invest in energy efficiency.

"Energyville is an engaging way of looking at the real-world decisions that have to be made in meeting rising global energy needs," said Rhonda Zygocki, Chevron's vice president of Policy, Government and Public Affairs, in a statement.

The game looks at the economic, environmental and security trade-offs and opportunities from different energy sources to power offices, factories and vehicles in a city of almost 4 million people—about the size of Singapore—combined with random events that affect choices. *Reuters*

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BLUE OCEAN STRATEGY
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SUPERMARKET · SUPERMARKET · SM

SM SUPERMARKET HOLDS BLUE OCEAN STRATEGY SEMINAR FOR SME'S

The food retail industry is one that is filled with intense competition and struggle for differentiation. In a field where the market share seems saturated, and where competition include some if the Fortune 100 companies, it is a big challenge for smaller companies to make their mark in the industry.

SM Supermarket shall hold the "BLUE OCEAN STRATEGY" seminar as part of its advocacy to help support Small and Medium Enterprises achieve better market reach. The seminar is absolutely free and aims to teach these companies new strategies to reach their goals by making competition irrelevant. The seminar will discuss how these companies can achieve high growth by reaching beyond existing demand to find a "blue ocean" of market space and to formulate their unique strategy to develop new products and new profit sources.

The seminar/workshop shall be by marketing guru, Mr. Josiah Go, Chairman and Chief Marketing Strategist of Mansmith and Fielders, Inc. and the first and only person to have successfully completed the Blue Ocean Strategy qualification process in ?France and the first-ever professor of the Blue Ocean Strategy in Southeast Asia.

The BLUE OCEAN STRATEGY Seminar will be held at SM Mall of Asia's Centerstage on Wednesday, September 12, 2007, from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon.

SPORTS

Website: www.inquirer.net/sports

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres** Assistant Editor **Francis T. J. Ochoa**

Text us your feedback: Inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

WHAT'S INSIDE

Federer tames Roddick anew /A31

ATENEO'S Emmanuel Monfort drives past State U's Woodward Co (left) and Andrew Marfori. RYAN LIM

Blue Eagles rip Maroons

By Jasmine W. Payo

FORD ARAO AND ERIC SALAMAT GOT ATENEO going in the first half and the Blue Eagles rolled on to the most lopsided win this season in a 93-59 rout of the University of the Philippines Maroons in the UAAP men's basketball tournament yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The Eagles, who even trailed thrice in the first half, picked up their fourth straight victory to rise to 8-4 and secure at least a playoff for the Final Four.

"In the first half we were just too relaxed, especially on defense," said coach Norman Black as the third-running Eagles gear up for another heated showdown with arch rival La Salle on Sunday.

"We gave them too many open looks at the basket. At halftime, I challenged them to come out with more intensity, more fire and they responded by playing much better defense."

The Eagles' 34-point win margin surpassed by three the 97-66 final score the undefeated University of the East also achieved against UP last July 28.

"I got no reason for losing, I assume the responsi

BLUE EAGLES/ A32

PSBank adds a fresh perspective in banking leadership

In the midst of numerous changes, PSBank, the country's second largest savings bank and subsidiary of financial giant Metrobank, is quick to recognize the public's preferences. These are translated into banking options that not only offers exceptional financial services but also provides a fresh perspective in banking leadership.

PSBank president Pascual Garcia III said that being in touch with customer's choices is integral in developing the right products and services for them. "PSBank clients come from different market segments and we have to tailor-fit our products to suit their varying needs," he added.

A prime example of PSBank's commitment to providing innovative products is the "Thank Goodness It's Five Days" (TGIF) campaign. Clients can expect a credit decision on their home loan application in five working days. Since its launch, PSBank experienced a 60.5% increase in its home loan applications. The outstanding performance of the TGIF campaign is due to the 99% success rate of meeting the 5 days turn around time.

The campaign assures customers of a response about their Home Loan application in five working days or less, provided that they submit all the required documents. If no credit decision is received by the customers within 5 working days, PSBank is giving a 1% reduction on the first year interest rate for all approved home loans.

The procedure is very simple. The client needs to fill-out a home loan application form and submit it together with the complete required documents at any PSBank branch nationwide.

PSBank's quick credit decision is due to its technologically-advanced loan processing system. Applicants will receive an update automatically via SMS on the status of their application. With a strong inter-branch transaction capability, customers can conveniently apply for a home loan at any of PSBank's 162 branches nationwide even if it is not their home branch.

What's more, PSBank is the first bank to offer fixed terms up to 25 years. Plus, it provides the competitive rates as low as 8.75% fixed for the first year.

"PSBank's TGIF campaign was created to address clients' needs for simple processes when applying for home loans as well as a faster turnaround time for credit decision on home loan applications. Our TGIF campaign was bestowed the "Best Insight and Strategic Thinking" award during the 2nd Integrated Marketing Communications Effectiveness Awards (IMCEA)," PSBank President Pascual M. Garcia III said.

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Get the PSBank TGIF Home Loan.
Apply at any PSBank branch nationwide or through www.psbank.com.ph

*Subject to submission of all required documents.

For more inquiries, Text: PSBANK HOME AD <your name> <your landline nos.> <your email address> then send to 391-772 for Smart or 0917-8902327 for Globe and other networks • Email: info@psbank.com.ph • Call: (02) 845-8772, 944-1753, or 944-1772

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NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
DAI-DAN CO. LTD. (PHIL. BRANCH OFFICE) 7/F Mobile Entertainment Center, 104 Rada St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Mutsuo Horiuchi Japanese	General Manager for Project Construction Division
SHARP (PHILS.) CORPORATION Km. 23 West Service Road, South Superhighway, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Kazuo Kito Japanese	Asst. Vice President and Division General Manager for Consumer Electronics Production Division
SHARP (PHILS.) CORPORATION Km. 23 West Service Road, South Superhighway, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Masashi Date Japanese	Vice President & Division General Manager for Sales & Marketing Division
XPERT AIR SERVICES, INC. 7 Ideal St., Mandaluyong City	Saeran Cho Korean	Consultant
XPERT AIR SERVICES, INC. #7 Ideal St., Mandaluyong City	Seohee Kim Korean	Consultant
DEUTSCHE KNOWLEDGE SERVICES PTE. LTD. 16/F Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave., cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Marilen Lagamon-Querubin American	Associate
VALLEYTEK PHILIPPINES, INC. Unit 805-806 One Corporate Plaza Bldg., Arnaiz Ave., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Seon Hee Kim Korean	President
UNITED PHILIPPINES DRILLING CO. INC. Unit 818 Pioneer Highlands, South Condominium, Pioneer cor. Madison St., Mandaluyong City	Peter James Kempton Australian	Drilling Superintendent
DODO COSMETICS PHILIPPINES CORP. Unit 218, 2/F V-Mall, Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan City	Min Seok Kim Korean	Consultant
DIGIWAVE SOLUTIONS INCORPORATED 20A Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Nakhyun Kim Korean	Software Development Head
ZOOM ASIA ALUMINUM, INC. 9/F Ayala Life-FGU Center, 6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Mukesh Sharma Indian	Director
D & F CONSTRUCTION & DEV'T. CORP. U-812 8th Flr., Globe Telecom Plaza I, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City	Yongho Kim Korean	Assistant General Manager
HEMANN LA SEMA CORPORATION 7232 Malugay St., Bel-Air II, Makati City	Junho Seo Korean	General Manager
YAE PHILIPPINES, INC. Unit 201 Prestige Tower F. Ortigas Jr., Road, San Antonio, Pasig City	Jongbok Im Korean	Manager
ALLSCRIPT ESTABLISHMENT, INC. 2814-C Violeta Court, FB Harrison St., Pasay City	Tian Hock Tan Singaporean	Director
CJ GLS PHILIPPINES INC. 6/F TM Kalaw Center, TM Kalaw, Ermita, Manila	Seong Ju Hong Korean	Managing Director
BIO GREEN PROCESSING & MANUFACTURING INC. Unit 715 TMBC Bldg., 6772 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Sun Young Lee Korean	Treasurer
TEAM HEALTH CARE RECRUITMENT, INC. Unit 2B Highway 54 Plaza, 986 Stanford St., cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City	Rajesh Kakkanattu Pushpan Indian	International Business Development Officer
FLUOR DANIEL, INC.-PHILIPPINES 3/F Asian Star Bldg., Asian Drive, FCC Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Marcel Cornelis Hendrikus Buts Dutch	Senior Designer
CENTER FOR MULTICULTURAL STUDIES, INC. DCL House 3/F, 2598 Manchas St., Brgy Sta. Cruz, Makati City	Marina Leonidovna Marree Dutch	Assistant Instructor / Lecturer
CENTER FOR MULTICULTURAL STUDIES, INC. DCL House 3/F, 2598 Manchas St., Brgy Sta. Cruz, Makati City	Robertus Cornelis Franciscus Stevens Dutch	Head Trainor/Instructor
SERAPH MANAGEMENT GROUP INC. MB Casa Catalina Bldg., Gen. Malvar St., Malate, Manila	Moosung Kang Korean	Guest Relation Officer
SERAPH MANAGEMENT GROUP INC. MB Casa Catalina Bldg., Gen. Malvar St., Malate, Manila	Hanna Lee Korean	Guest Relation Officer
HOCHENG PHILIPPINES CORPORATION 1163 Chino Roces Avenue, San Antonio Village, Makati City	Denny Widyan Indonesian	International Marketing Assistant
ORTIGAS CONSULTANCY & MULTI-SERVICES INC. UG-14 City & Land Megaplaza ADB Ave., cor. Garnet Rd., San Antonio, Pasig City	Kyung Shik Yang Korean	General Manager
KORYO HAND ACUPUNCTURE CORP. U-308 Greenhills Mansion, 37 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan City	Gye Su Jeon Korean	General Manager
SURECO PC CORP. 123 Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City	Kyung Soo Bae Korean	General Manager
TOURIST CENTER CORPORATION Unit C, 15F BA Lepanto Cond., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Matthias Pucklitzsch German	Consultant
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES INC. 53rd Flr., PBCOM Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Shuo Huang Chinese	General Manager-Technology Dept.

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC-Regional Director

(PDI - Sept. 7, 2007)

Bayron shows worth, grabs second with 69

BAYRON: Now just a shot off the pace.

By Musong R. Castillo

SILANG, CAVITE—WITH THE COURSE FInally showing its teeth, it took the most fancied bidder to come out of a brutal day practically unscathed.

Jay Bayron, the country's amateur ace, fired a two-under-par 69 yesterday to move within a stroke of the lead going into the final round of the marathon NGAP National Qualifiers at The Riviera's unforgiving Langer layout here.

Touted as the man to beat before the start of the 144-hole tryouts, Bayron finally justified his status by breaking par for the second time in three days and moving a shot off Mark Fernando with a 508 total.

Mark Fernando, the Calatagan bet who has held the lead, or at least a share of it, since the third round of the first phase at the adjacent Couples last week, turned in a 73 for 507.

Ferdinand Aunzo remained in third spot despite a 74 for 509. He was tied with Jonel Ababa, the first National Caddies Open champ who dropped out of a share of the lead after a 75.

Anthony Fernando, Mark's cousin and leader after the first two rounds, still couldn't break par for the fourth straight round, his 72 pulling him down to fifth, another stroke back at 510.

Burly Michael Bibat shot himself in the foot with an 80 for sixth spot at 519 but was comfortably ahead of the seventh-running Gene Bondoc, who ballooned to an 81 for 526.

As things stand, the race for the six RP team slots has, for all intents and purposes, been decided after six rounds. The charge that Bayron made in the penultimate round only provided an interesting sidelight.

"I have been hitting the ball well, even at the Couples course (for the first half last week)," Bayron, who started the day five shots off the pace in fifth, told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

"The only difference is that I am putting a little better this week, though still not at the rate that I would truly like."

The rest of the standings: Miko Alejandro (72-528); Paul Echavez (74-531); James Ryan Lam (76-532); Jerson Balasabas (78-536); Zanieboy Gialon (73-537); Jong Laput (78-537); Rufino Bayron (79-545) and Boboy Jaraula (83-548).

LA: Waiting for Justice Pacquiao

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—HE DID NOT LOOK EXactly like The Accused.

The former Manila sportswriter, who adversaries inside Team Pacquiao here had grimly labeled the Pest, was not an itchy bug.

Neither was he a distant cousin to a wet fly or a grimy termite.

Winchell Campos, left in charge of Manny Pacquiao's unit at the gated Pallazzo Residences on the classy side of La Brea Avenue, reported to the Wild Card Gym at the appointed hour on Wednesday noon.

"It was Manny (Pacquiao) who ordered new locks to avoid trespassers," he opened up from his cool perch immediately after the main door of the second-floor training site.

It was furnace-hot outside, but Campos kept his cool, although there was pressure on him to explain his side on why he had to call in Los Angeles cops into the Pacquiao apartment on Sunday afternoon.

* * *

"You've got all your facts wrong—*nakuryente kayo*, sir," Campos mumbled, sounding like a gurgling baby with no worries whatsoever in the world.

Of course, he had a problem.

"I'd been planning to write an article to contest all the allegations they've hurled against me," he said. "*Pero ayaw ko na lang palakihin* (But I didn't want to blow the issue up.)"

"You could do that later, but I've a duty to get your side," I reminded Campos.

"Well, in the first place, there were no pending cases here against me. I'm neat. Period. Those were all lies, what they told you. In fact, the guy who created all this mess is a nobody at the Sheriff's Office. He's a mere civilian employee, an X-ray technician."

"So how did all this start, what was the root cause?"

* * *

It was pure and silly envy, Campos explained, without sounding harsh or hurt.

"Plain old crab mentality, you know the usual Pinoy fault. They did not want anybody to be better off than them. You could also say it's the old saying of people ganging up on a tree that's richly producing fruits—*'yun bang ang hitik sa bunga, binabato nila*."

He was asked why boxer Rodel Mayol, who was being repackaged under Pacquiao's patronage, had to move out.

"Well, they tried to wreck me with Mayol—*siniraan nila ako*. But the boy was wise enough to discern what was fact and what was plain dirty gossip. Mayol left because his wife was coming over and they had to share their own apartment."

"What about Bernie Torres, with whom you reportedly had a flaring confrontation."

"He had to go, because there's a rule here that if one person had stayed in one place for 30 days, you could no longer yank him out. I had to protect Manny's interest. It's my duty as his trusted guy here."

* * *

As things stand, there are now only three people left in Pacquiao's apartment here, namely Campos, trainer Nonoy Neri and assistant Alex Oreto.

Campos acts as the resident big boss, in the absence of the Pacman.

"But I don't want to be called Chief of Staff or whatever," Camposa explained. "I'm merely in charge of the place. For the record, I never bought my way to self-respect. I earned it."

Campos must've been relieved that he had let things out of his humble chest.

Of course, this did not necessarily mean peace, or whatever little remained of it, has returned to Pacquiao's special nest here.

In fact, as we were rushing this piece, Greg Asuncion, Campos' chief nemesis, sent a text message to dispute Campos' claims.

"I have all the copies of all court records against Winchell. Let's meet tomorrow, for your eyes only."

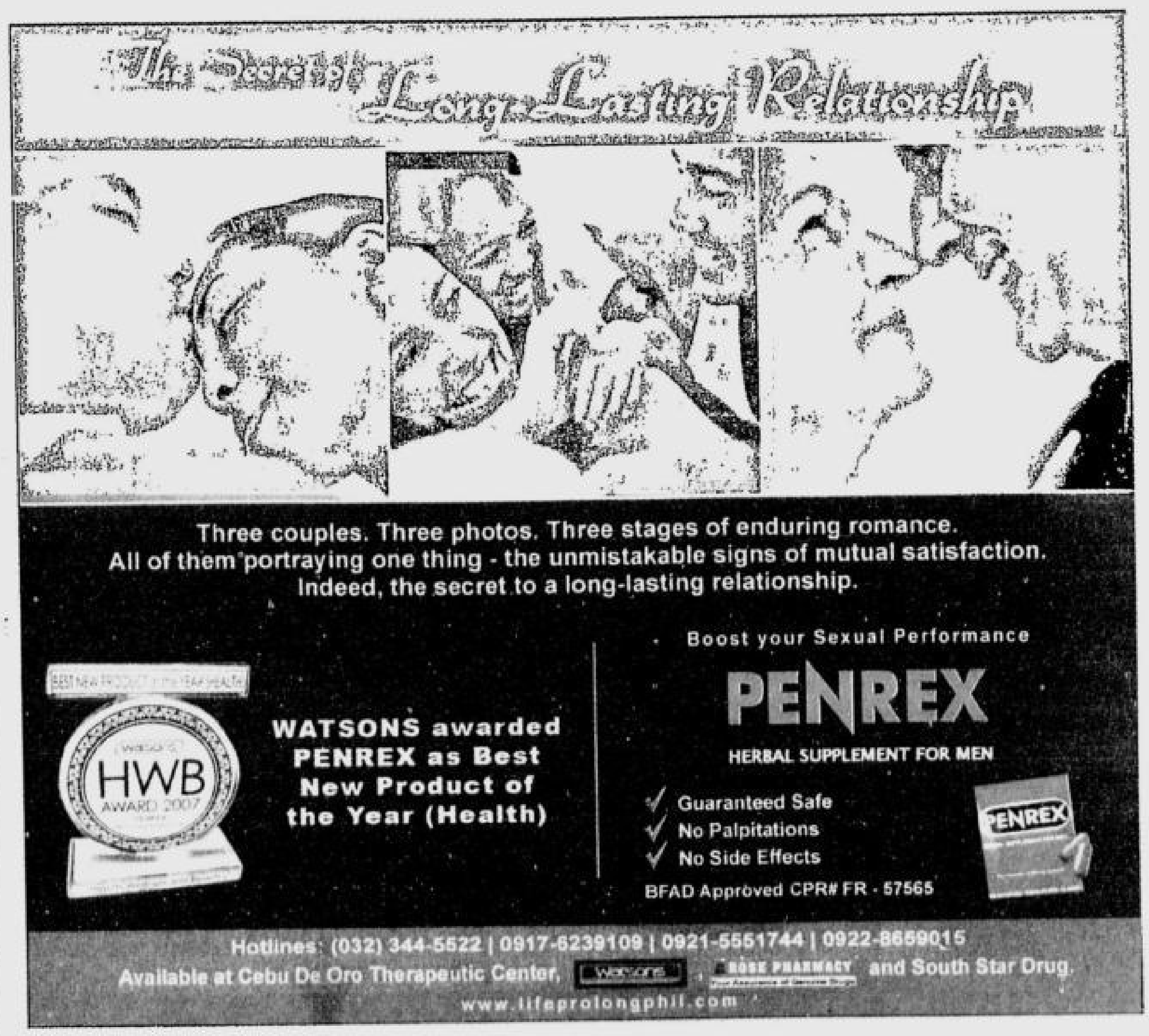
Sorry, but I've promised Winchell this will be the last and final piece on the case. So this will be it, nothing more, nothing less.

Meanwhile, they have to wait for Manny Pacquiao to return and rule on who's the pest and who's the exterminator in this case.

Before Pacquiao could settle down when he returns to La Brea on Sept. 22, first day of Fall here, for the final push in his training against Marco Antonio Barrera, the Pacman, President and Legislator of his place, will have no choice but also assume the role of Chief Justice (of the Peace.)

* * *

(**URGENT:** From concerned basketball officials in Negros: "As stakeholders for a transparent and dynamic basketball organization, we at Region 6 are DISMAYED and DISAPPOINTED at the lethargy of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (SBP). Signed: Jose "Jobol" Piamonte, Victorino Ledesma, Herminigildo Borromeo, Rumolo Estrebillo, Rudy Azcona... He could not make it to the funeral of his Lola, Zosima Gonzales Oreto, 85, but Alex Oreto of Team Pacquiao shares the sorrows of his family and relatives over the demise of their beloved grandmother, a native of Pila, Laguna, who was buried in Padre Burgos, Quezon, yesterday.)



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Pasay Cockers derby kicks off

THE ONE-ON-ONE DUels pitting some of the country's top cockers get going today at Pasay City Cockpit with the first leg of the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association 5-stag Derby series. Some 90 matches are on tap with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as top supporter. The "red flag" and "open bet" formats will be used, said pit manager Eric dela Rosa.

Stagwars finals at Cainta today

COCKERS FROM RIZAL province and Metro Manila converge today at Cainta Fair Center Coliseum for the championship round of Stagwars 5-Stag Derby. The first of the 135-fight program starts at 11 a.m. After six days of eliminations, 26 participants emerged as frontrunners with three wins each. The P1.5-million stagfest lured more than 300 entries.

Croatia ends Spain's win streak at 28

MADRID—ISRAEL CONDEMNED Serbia to a third straight defeat in Group A, winning 87-83 to send the former great home early from the European Championship along with Latvia, Czech Republic and Poland on Wednesday.

The culmination of the first phase also marked an end to world champion Spain's 28-match unbeaten run in a dramatic 85-84 defeat to Croatia, while holder Greece also lost, 61-53, to Russia.

The top three sides from the four sections move into two groups of six in the second phase, which starts in Madrid on Friday, with the results from the first three days carrying over.

Greece ran into a brick wall called Andrei Kirilenko as it lost the battle for the top spot in the group. The 2.09 meter Utah Jazz forward caught 17 rebounds and contributed 12 points.

In Palma de Mallorca, Sarunas Jasikevicius steered Lithuania to the top spot in Group C with an 84-80 win over Germany. *Reuters*

SAN FRANCISCO

BONDS AP

Bonds smashes No. 762

DENVER, COLORADO—BARRY Bonds, Pedro Feliz and Bengie Molina all homered as the San Francisco Giants snapped a four-game losing streak with a 5-3 win over the Colorado Rockies on Wednesday.

Bonds began the home run parade in the first inning, hitting his 762nd Major League Baseball career home run off Rockies rookie starter Ubaldo Jimenez, giving the Giants a 2-0 lead.

The two-run blast was his 28th of the season as Jimenez became the 449th pitcher to surrender a homer to the all-time leader. The home run was Bonds' first since August 24 against the Milwaukee Brewers.

JELENA Jankovic returns a shot to Venus Williams. AFP

Federer tames Roddick anew

NEW YORK—FOR TWO SETS AGAINST Roger Federer at the US Open, Andy Roddick was very good, quite possibly as good as he can be.

For two sets, Roddick banged big serves at up to 146 mph (235 kph), collecting aces and service winners and never double-faulting, never facing a break point.

For two sets, he conjured up groundstroke winners, strong volleys, impressive returns.

And what did all of that superb play Wednesday night earn Roddick? A two-set deficit and, eventually, a 7-6 (5), 7-6 (4), 6-2 loss in the US Open quarterfinals, a round or two earlier than Roddick is accustomed to succumbing to Federer.

And accustomed Roddick most certainly is, dropping to 1-14 against the man who replaced him at No. 1 in the rankings 3½ years ago and has been there since.

"I mean, I'm not walking off with any questions in my head this time. I'm not walking with my head down," Roddick said. "I played the right way."

Federer, though, reached his record 14th consecutive Grand Slam semifinal thanks in part by being barely better in each tiebreaker.

So, too, was Venus Williams earlier Wednesday, when she came back from a set and a break down to push her quarterfinal against No. 3 Jelena Jankovic into a third-set tiebreaker. Williams was solid over those decisive points, Jankovic was slightly shakier, and the American pulled out a 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (4) victory to get back to the US Open semifinals for the first time since 2002.

Next up is a match against No. 1 Justine Henin.

US Open 'live' on Balls

AVID TENNIS FANS NOW HAVE front row access to the US Open 2007 through the exclusive broadcast in Balls, SkyCable's Channel 33.

The 12 hours of live US Open coverage begins late at night with six hours of the best matches. It is immediately followed by the replay of the first six hours of the live telecast. The semifinals and the finals will be shown live on Sept. 8 to 10.

Ex-Ateneo cager debuts for US Div. I five Nov. 22

AGUILAR

By Jasmine W. Payo

JAPETH AGUILAR, the first Philippine-born player to sign up with a US NCAA Division I squad, will debut with the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers in a nationally televised game.

Aguilar—the former Ateneo Blue Eagles center who sat it out for a year due to a US NCAA transfer rule—will see action when the Hilltoppers battle Gonzaga in the 2007 Carrs/Safeway Great Alaska Shootout.

The 30th annual Shootout is one of the NCAA's premier early-season events and will be aired on ESPN U on Nov. 22.

The 6-foot-9 Aguilar already made an impression when he ruled the university's slam dunk contest last October.

The 20-year-old Pampanga native led in blocks during his sophomore year in the UAAP before taking a crack at the US collegiate cage scene.

Aguilar, who posted a career-high seven blocks with Ateneo, helped power the Blue Eagles to a Final Four stint in the 2005 UAAP men's basketball tournament.

The son of former PBA cager Peter Aguilar has two years of eligibility left in the US NCAA. His father, a 6-6 center-forward, played for five seasons, starting in 1989, for five teams—Añejo, Alaska, Seven-Up , Sta. Lucia and Shell.

Instant replay for NBA

NEW YORK—THE NATIONAL BASKETball Association has agreed to allow officials to use instant replay for flagrant fouls and fights in 2007-08, the league announced Wednesday.

Recommended by the NBA's competition committee, the decision was approved last week in a vote by the league's board of governors.

The new ruling permits officials to review instant replays in order to determine the severity of a flagrant foul. Under current rules, a player whistled for a Flagrant Foul Penalty Two receives an automatic ejection.

Also, officials can turn to replay in order to sort out penalties following on-court altercations. *AFP*

PRE-SEASON

Ginebra takes on P'foods

GAME TOMORROW
(*SSC Gym, Cavite*)
4 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Purefoods

By Musong R. Castillo

REIGNING PHILIPpine Cup champion Barangay Ginebra clash with Purefoods to take the lid off the PBA's 2007 pre-season tournament tomorrow at the San Sebastian College gym in Cavite.

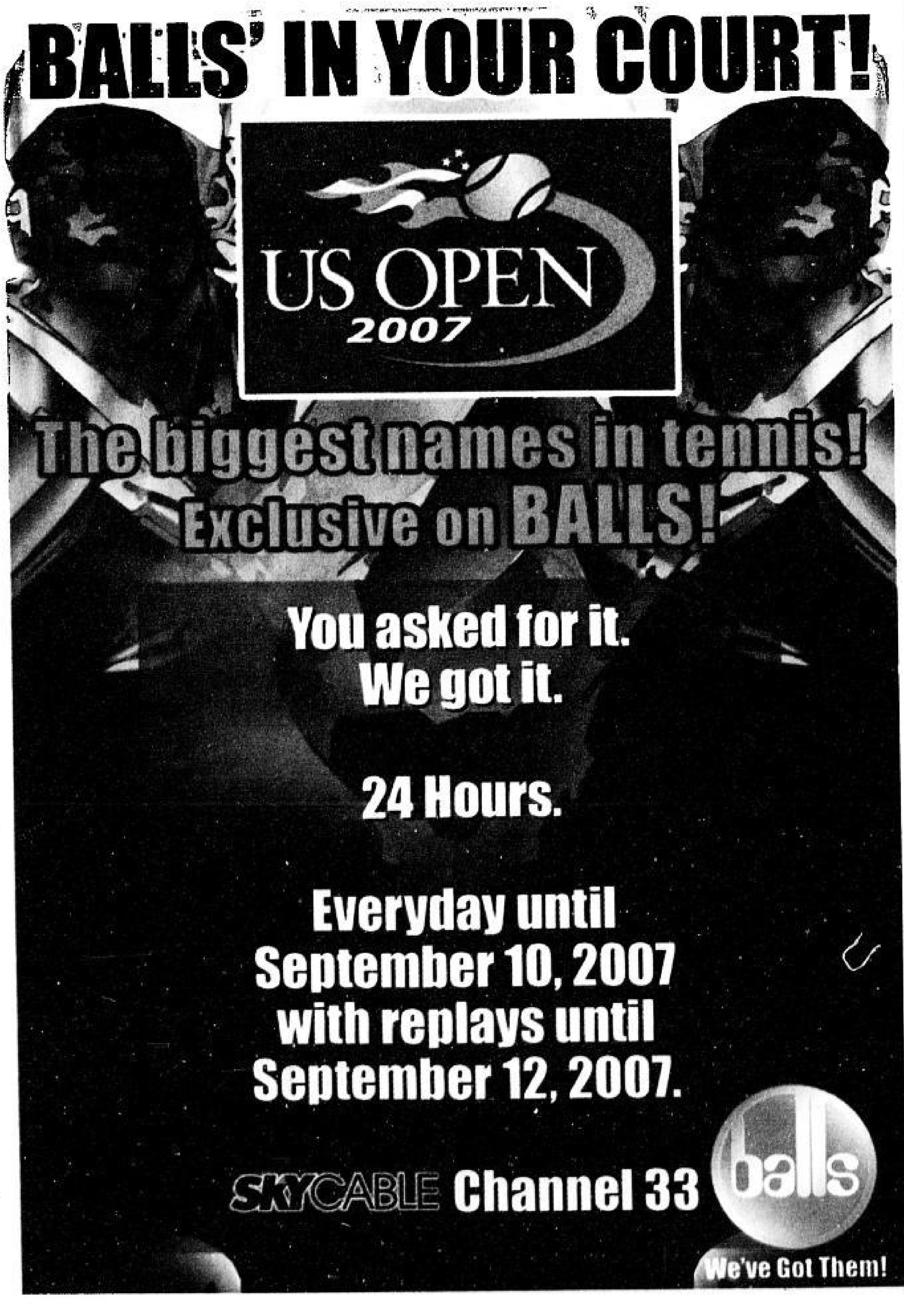
The Gin Kings and the Tender Juicy Giants, both with practically untouched rosters, tangle at 4 p.m.

Ginebra will welcome back Jayjay Helterbrand and Mark Caguioa from national duty. Kerby Raymundo will also rejoin Purefoods with James Yap, one of three players last cut from the RP team.

Only Macky Escalona has been added to the Ginebra roster.

Purefoods, which did not pick anyone in the Draft, will also field Marc Pingris, who is back in shape after a career-threatening foot injury.

Rock-solid Talk 'N Text, with Asi Taulava, Jimmy Alapag and RenRen Ritualo also returning, clashes with Air21 on Monday at the Fresnedi gym in Muntinlupa.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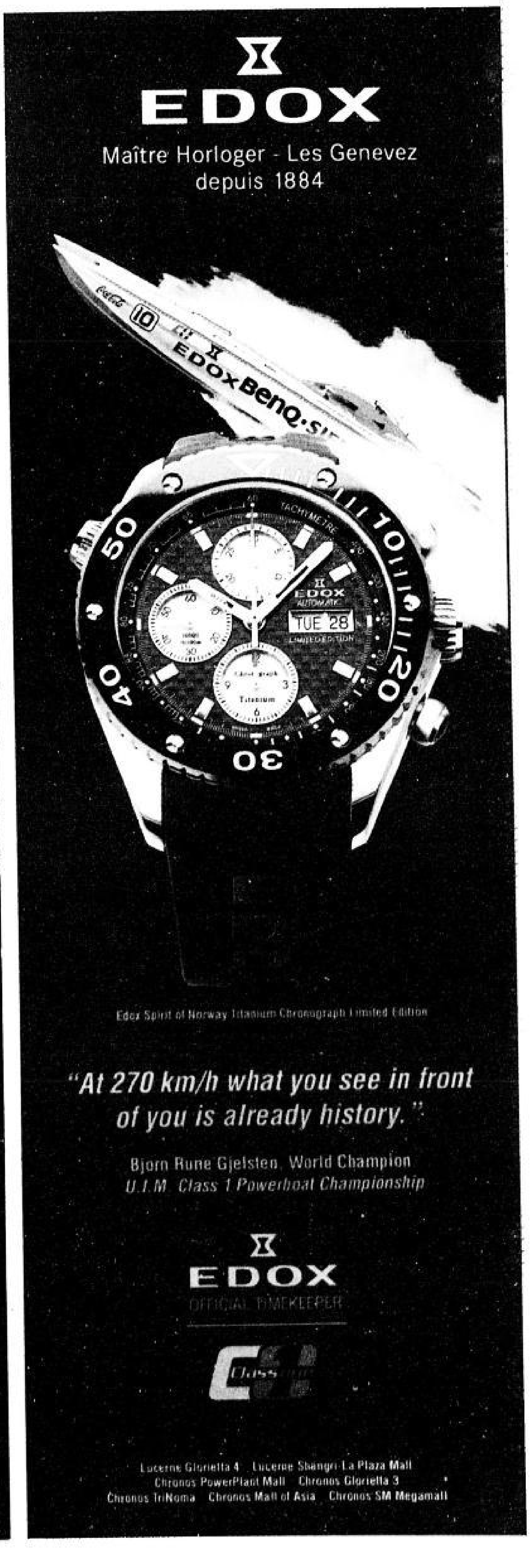
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SPORTS

UM returns to finals, shuts door on AMA

FRANK BONUS JUST LIVED UP TO HIS AUSpicious name.

The 6-foot guard provided the endgame spark as University of Manila nipped defending champion AMA, 80-78, yesterday and returned to the finals of the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Univesities (Naascu) basketball tournament at the San Juan gym.

Bonus, who hails from Tarlac, Tarlac, drilled in 15 of his 24 points, including four three-pointers in the fourth quarter as the Hawks earned the right to face STI in the best-of-three championship series.

UM, winner of five straight titles from 2001 with a historic 81-game winning streak, and STI begin their title playoffs at 4:30 p.m. tomorrow at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The Hawks will gun for their sixth title in the league just like their junior counterparts who will take on St. Clare in a sudden-death finals also tomorrow at 3 p.m.

"I hope this is a resurgence for UM," said UM president Ernesto Delos Santos. "You have seen how much the players wanted to win."

Trailing by seven, 68-75, midway in the fourth, Bonus fired a hail of baskets to fuel a 10-0 blast that gave the Hawks a 78-75 lead.

The scores:

UM 80—Bonus 24, Malinao 12, Assuncion 11, Napiza 9, Delostrinos 9, Pagulo 8, Guimpatan 7, Lacap 0, Facun 0.

AMA 78—Galang 29, Abac 21, Zablan 13, Jaime 9, Vergara 4, Mollena 2, Manalang 0, Garcia 0.

Quarters: 17-17, 36-42, 53-61, 80-78 — *Marc Reyes*

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PASIG QUEZON CITY MANDALUYONG

RP bets come to grief

Lack of Italian visa thwarts Lavandia, 3 others

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THEY TRAINED HARD FOR THE most part of the year in hopes of defending their world titles—only to be told they have nowhere to go.

The country's track and field legends led by Elma Muros-Posadas and Erlinda Lavandia missed a chance to compete in the biennial World Masters in Riccione, Italy, after failing to get their visas from the Italian Embassy.

The sad episode left Lavandia, the former Southeast Asian Games javelin champion, in tears.

"We prepared eight months for this, training every day," said the 55-year-old Lavandia, the two-time defending champion in the 50-60 age bracket (2003 in Puerto Rico and 2005 in Spain).

LAVANDIA

"In the end, we lost without putting up a fight."

The World Masters started Sept. 4 and will end on Sept. 15.

Posadas was slated to vie for the heptathlon and hurdles titles, along with sprints legends Mona Sulaiman and pole vaulter Emerson Obiena.

Lavandia said they applied for visa on Aug. 21 only to be told a week later that they needed to secure an invitation from the Italian Olympic Committee.

"That was only two days before our flight (Aug. 31)," said Lavandia.

The group sought the assistance of both the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee to no avail.

Lavandia said that, contrary to the Italian Embassy's information, the Italian Olympic Committee does not have anything to do with the World Masters, a competition among athletics greats 35 years and older for women, and 40 and older for men.

"It's painful for us because we prepared for it like we were still in the national team," said Lavandia. "It's sad because we lost only because we don't have a visa."

De Leon itching for Peñalosa rematch

MEXICAN DANIEL PONCE DE LEON wants a rematch with Gerry Peñalosa to prove his previous win over the Filipino world champion was no fluke.

In an interview with Boxingtalk .com, De Leon said he could beat Peñalosa anywhere.

"It wouldn't matter—USA, Mexico, Philippines," De Leon said. "I am confident of beating Peñalosa anywhere."

De Leon retained his WBO bantamweight title by a controversial decision over Peñalosa last March 17.

The Mexican pulled off a sensational first-round knockout of Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista in last month's World Cup in Sacramento, California.

Peñalosa, who won the WBO bantam title at the same card with a 7th-round knockout of Jhonny Gonzalez, said he also wants to avenge his loss to De Leon.

"I know he is bigger than me, but I want to fight him again," said Peñalosa. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

PSC official Montemayor on way out?

By June Navarro

LEON MONTEMAYOR IS ON HIS WAY out as commissioner of the Philippine Sports Commission.

A reliable PSC source yesterday said President Macapagal-Arroyo has accepted the courtesy resignation of Montemayor in line with a Malacañang plan to revamp the government sports agency.

The source added that the services of another commissioner would be terminated. He declined to name the official.

Montemayor is in charge of the PSC's grassroots development program.

The other commissioners are Ambrocio De Luna Joey Mundo and Ritchie Garcia, who also served as commissioner during President Estrada's term and was reappointed in 2005 along with Mundo.

PSC chief William "Butch" Ramirez also started as commissioner in 2001 before being appointed chair in 2005.

Ramirez did not confirm or deny the acceptance of Montemayor's resignation.

All PSC officials tendered courtesy resignations following a recent decision by the President to review the performance of government officials.

Blue Eagles overwhelm Maroons

From page A29

bility," said coach Joe Lipa, noting that he remains aware of calls for his ouster as early as the Maroons' second loss. "We are just playing bad and we are losing bad.

"I heard that a lot of people are asking for my head," added Lipa, who had a "handshake agreement" to mentor the Maroons until 2008. "When I decided to coach UP again, I have in my heart the interest and what's good for the university."

In the second game, the National University Bulldogs kept their slim semifinal hopes alive with a 68-57 triumph over the Adamson Falcons.

The scores:

First Game

ATENEO 93—Salamat 18, Arao 13, Baclao 10, Monfort 10, Long 9, Laterre 7, Al-Hussaini 6, Tiu 5, Baldos 4, Escueta 4, Sumalinog 3, Reyes 3, Barracoso 1, Nkemakolam 0.

UP 59—Rivera 9, Reyes 8, Marfori 7, Lopez 7, Gamboa 7, Sison 6, De Asis 6, Dela Victoria 3, Agbayani 3, Epres 2, Serios 1, Wong 0, Co 0, Hipolito 0.

Quarters: 21-21, 40-34, 64-42, 93-59

Second Game

NU 68—Lingao-Lingao 13, Fernandez 13, Asoro 13, Garcia 10, Luy 3, Malagueño 3, Jahnke 3, Aguilar 2, Galapon 2, Salvado 2, Catamora 2, Ponferrada 1, Dela Cruz 1, Baloran 0.

ADAMSON 57—Cabahug 16, Colina 12, Canuday 12, Hugnatan 6, Cañada 4, Gorospe 3, Alvarez 2, Gonzalgo 2, Olalia 0, Margallo 0, Yambot 0.

Quarters: 19-12, 29-27, 47-40, 68-57

STANDINGS	W	L
UE	12	0
La Salle	9	3
Ateneo	8	4
Santo Tomas	7	5
Far Eastern	6	6
National	5	7
Adamson	1	11
UP	0	12

GAMES TOMORROW
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—UP vs UE
4 p.m.—National vs Far Eastern

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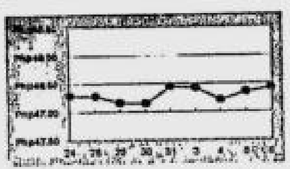

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As of 5 p.m., Sept. 6, 2007

Visiting Lehman execs warn of worsening credit crunch

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE WORLD IS NOT LIKELY TO SEE THE END OF THE US housing slump any time soon, and this could cause spell disaster for stocks but open up some opportunities in bond markets, visiting officials of leading US investment bank Lehman Brothers said.

"I think the housing issue will be here for several years in the US and that could lead to lower growth in the US. I will be more concerned with the equities markets than the bond markets," said Paul Kan, senior vice president at Lehman handling mortgage-backed securities trading.

"I would think if the macroeconomc environment is not liquid in the US, it will probably be a good time to be in bonds where you're maximizing the spread," Kan said Wednesday night at a forum with the Foundation for Economic Freedom.

In his presentation on the subprime crisis, Kan said the bottom of the US

US CRISIS/ B2

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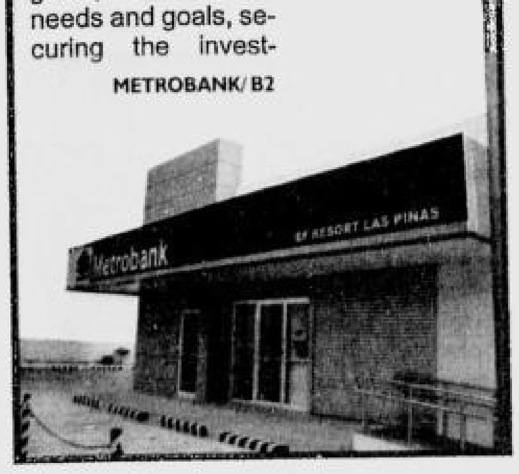

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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

SOON WE MAY ALL SUFFER THE pain from that price fixing at the WESM.

That's the "wholesale electricity spot market," our version of the bidding-type free market for power, which caught the headlines last year due to a scandal over alleged price manipulation.

Now word is out that we may soon see an increase of about P2 per kWh in our electric bills.

It is the result of the WESM price-fixing charges last year.

At that time, Napocor president Cyril del Callar was caught with a compromising letter to PSALM Corp., "urging" (Del Callar's word) it to meet with Napocor on the prices they would offer in the WESM.

Business cried foul, noting that it was out-and-out price manipulation.

In no time, indeed, prices at the WESM went from P2.88 to P6.88 per kWh, for a more than double P4 per kwh increase.

After an investigation, the Energy Regulatory Commission concluded that Del Callar's letter was... well, "inappropriate."

And that was it, folks! For something as hideous as "price manipulation," that was what Del Callar got—an empty word!

Of course the ERC warned Del Callar and Napocor about doing such things in the future.

Still, it was all just a soft slap in the wrist. Look, ma, Del Callar is still Napocor president!

And so now, about a year later after the, er, "inappropriate" price manipulation at the WESM, we all must bear the brunt with that P2 per kwh increase in our electric bills.

Somebody else did wrong; we endure the punishment. Nice!

* * *

Sounding the alarm on the impending power rate increase was actually Bukidnon Rep. Teofisto Guingona III.

By the way, Guingona also said that what Del Callar and company did, well, actually, was a crime.

Do I take it that, under this administration, crime does pay?

Anyway, on top of the forthcoming P2 per kWh increase due the WESM price fixing last year, Napocor is asking the ERC for a 74-centavo per kWh increase next month.

As reason, Napocor said something about "deferred forex accounting adjustments." Or it could be "some living things under the earth;" I am not sure.

Guingona estimates that Napocor stands to collect some P9 billion more due to the price-fixing bonanza from last year.

Thus, he said that the ERC should reject the petition for the rate increase from the power-generating companies that were involved in the WESM price manipulation.

They were all state-owned of course.

It only highlights the real problem in the power sector, which is none other than the monopoly Napocor, still controlling some 80 percent of the country's power generating capacity.

That's why the law known as Epira wants Napocor to loosen its choke on the power sector by selling its plants and retaining, at most, 30 percent of the country's total capacity.

But Napocor wants Epira to go to hell. The Napocor mafia is working hard to amend the law. They are getting support from the Lola at the Palace.

Meantime, our electricity bills keep on rising. Sweet!

* * *

And since that's how they behave upstairs in the power sector, we cannot expect any less from the people downstairs.

For instance, there seems to be trouble in the country's biggest electric co-op, the Batangas II Electric Cooperative, or Batelec II, covering some 15 municipalities and two cities in the province, with monthly sales of P340 million.

It is a P75-million trouble, at that!

This newspaper reported that customers of Batelec II (covering Lipa and Tanauan) are complaining about its P75-million deal with a little company known as "I-solv" for the co-op's computerization.

Really, what business does an electric co-op have spending P76 million for computers? It is first and foremost into the distribution business—not rocket science.

Anyway, our report said that the president of the Batelec II board at the time of the P75-million computer deal was Reynaldo Panaligan, a newsman who covers the "justice beat" for the Manila Bulletin.

The new board, installed by the National Electrification Authority, or NEA, to replace the Panaligan group, now wants to recover P75 million from I-solv.

Or at least part of it!

From what I gathered, the co-op members, who are also the customers, voted to replace the Panaligan group after the NEA did an audit of the computer deal.

In that audit, NEA discovered the basis for charging the Panaligan group with gross mismanagement and corruption.

After the Panaligan group resorted to due process of reconsideration and all that, NEA still did not change its decision.

And so the group went to the Court Appeals. In three CA divisions, one after the other, the group contested the NEA decision. All the three CA divisions, one after the other, agreed with NEA. Again—that's three times!

As if to get away from the NEA, the Panaligan group then registered Batelec II with the Cooperative Development Authority.

It also went to the Supreme Court en banc, asking for "status quo" in the co-op, which the Supreme Court en banc granted.

To enforce the "status quo," the Supreme Court supposedly gave orders to the PNP chief, the AFP chief, and the NBI director.

All that for an electric co-op! How special could it be, really?

And so the NEA-installed new board filed cases of estafa against the old board.

Lo and behold, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales appointed DOJ state prosecutors to take over the case, thus sweeping aside the city prosecutors in Lipa and Tanauan.

For those particular cases only!

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NTL Asia Co. Ltd.	Digital Cervical Cancer Device w/ Software and Cervicam
Mycoplus Co. Ltd.	Care Cosmetics for Dandruff and Atopic / Contagious Dermatitis
Water Therapy Ltd.	Skin Care Cosmetics and Water Therapy Cleansing System
BabyDream Co. Ltd.	Infant Feeding Product: NanoSilver GS/NS Feed Bottle, Nipple, Pacifier
Urasia	Breast Pump (ManualAuto), Disposable Milk Bottle, and Pads
IT, COMPUTER H/W-S/W, RELATED PRODUCTS	
Eyetel Co. Ltd.	Power Surge Filter for Internet (ADSL, VDSL), Multi-Tap
Kaimeta Technology	Storage Chips/Emulator NDAS-PC/PC+/HTPC, (Ximeta)
New Technology Wave	Anti Virus Program for PC and Network Solutions, USB w/Anti
Titeng Co. Ltd.	Mini - Printer : ID, Card, Ticket, Receipt, Bonus Card System
SECURITY, SURVEILLANCE, DIRECTIONAL EQUIPMENTS	
KOCOM Ltd.	Door/Video Phone, Home Automation Network Security System
RITS-N Co. Ltd.	Automatic Door Sensor/Controller Remote Control, RF Transceiver, Parking Control System Transceiver, Digital Door Key etc. Parking Control System
Intellian Technologies	Satellite TV and Communications Antenna for Marine Vessels
OTHER IND'TL PRODUCTS, AUTO ACCESSORY, GAMING	
Daeyoon Scale Indtl	Portable Analyzer Device: Salinity, Concrete Air; Water Treatment; pH/ORP, MLSS/SS, Conductivity
HK e-CAR	Vehicle Monitoring & Event Data Recorder (Automotive Black Box)
IRROBOT Co. Ltd.	Arcade Game : Battle Robot Football, Virtual Golden Dozer

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Look for Mr. Charlie Alveyra,
Ms. Hazel Guemo, or
Ms. Sherly Enriquez

US crisis seen lifting bonds, stunting stocks

From page B1

housing market might not be here yet, warning of more defaults and foreclosures to come.

The credit crunch in the US is caused by rising delinquencies in subprime mortgages or housing loans made to borrowers with imperfect or limited credit histories and little equity. The ripples have spread across the globe as western banks took big hits from structured financial products with underlying assets invested in these sub-prime mortgages.

Ace Mikajiri, Lehman vice president, added that the global turmoil could widen Philippine credit spreads, which means investors will demand a higher premium for holding on to these sovereign debt paper.

"It's no secret that the credit market is still pretty tight so the potential for it to widen is reasonable but I don't think it will be a direct result of a direct sale," Mikajiri said.

In the US, Kan explained that banks would now tighten loan underwriting criteria, which in turn could depress volumes by 15 percent.

"With the size of the mortgage market, expect negative headlines to continue," Kan said.

Apart from the subprime mortgage market, Kan also noted signs of credit deterioration in the next riskiest mortgage market, the so-called alternative-A or "Alt-A."

An "Alt-A" mortgage is a loan to a rated-A borrower but there may be some underwriting standard that the borrower failed, such as incomplete documentation.

But he noted that the worsening subprime delinquencies was almost seven times worse than Alt-A-backed credit.

About 80 percent of the risk in the system was held by banks and non-agency dealers.

"Losses will be sizeable and spread out but could increase with refinancing troubles," Kan said.

As such, he noted that all eyes now were on the US Federal Reserve and the macroeconomic effects.

"The market is now pricing a two-thirds chance of a rate cut by the end of the year. Fed appears to be moving to increase liquidity of the system, without lowering Fed Funds (rate)," he said.

To calm the global financial market turmoil arising from huge losses on subprime mortgages, the US central bank last month lowered its key discount rate by half a percentage point to 5.75 percent but kept its Fed Funds rate, the more significant interest rate benchmark, at 5.25 percent.

The Fed Funds rate sets the benchmark that banks use for short-term loans from one another while the discount rate covers only the rate at which the Fed lends out to banks.

Metrobank at 45: A fresh perspective on banking leadership

From page B1

ment, and long term commitment. Trust clients enjoy the services of a dedicated fund manager and a personalized portfolio relationship manager.

Metrobank's top trust products include a pioneering Corporate Stewardship Program that promotes various employee benefits extended by companies to their employees. An off-the-shelf package, it is a comprehensive employee benefit program that provides a complete set-up process and a spectrum of products, such as basic and expanded retirement plans, provident plan, other employee benefit plans, savings and loan plan, discounts from Manila Doctors Hospital, Metrobank credit cards, and tuition fee savings.

Sulit says Metrobank will launch this month the Metrobank Exclusive, a wealth management program that provides one-to-one financial service that is essential to high net individuals. The program addresses the needs of affluent individuals and their families in a personalized and specialized manner.

Financial expertise at the tip of your hands

What is it like to be a Metrobank investor?

It's all about getting first-class treatment and the services of real money experts. It's experiencing priority while financial goals are being met.

At Metrobank, investing is an engaging experience worth your while and money as the country's largest bank makes sure that investing practices and financial solutions have one thing to achieve: clients' expectations.

Fernand Antonio Tansingco, head of Treasury Group says Metrobank's product portfolio is client oriented and client driven. The client is at the heart of Metrobank's motivation to push the boundaries of investment opportunities to provide results and returns.

"Alongside the growth of the Philippine economy, Metrobank is maximizing opportunities in the market right now, resulting in rising transaction volumes and happy investors," says Tansingco.

Pushing for balance sheet efficiencies and better investment hedging and risk management, bringing better ideas to maximize financial opportunities, and constantly improving products to fit clients' needs, Metrobank is on top of the game as the best bank to offer treasury products.

To further improve Metrobank's product suite, Tansingco says the bank will soon implement the OPIX Plus, which will not only cover traditional treasury products but also interest rate derivatives, foreign exchange derivatives, and credit derivatives to provide clients all avenues for investment growth.

Making dreams come true for the OFWs

For a better life for their families here, the overseas Filipino works hard in foreign homes, factories and offices, to support loved ones left behind - wife, husband, parent, and children. The OFW segment, every single individual of them found in every corner of the world deserves more than just being labeled the new heroes of the country.

Metrobank recognizes the struggle and hard work of the OFWs in making their families realize dreams and acquire better lives by continually expanding its services abroad to cater to the burgeoning needs of the OFW segment, which currently account for 8.7 million Filipinos.

New offices are set up in California to strengthen Metrobank's presence in the Americas. Metrobank has likewise established partnerships with remittance centers in the Middle East to make the bank's remittance services more readily accessible to Filipinos everywhere.

Metrobank goes beyond remittance services by also providing OFWs the opportunities to uplift their living conditions, like acquiring a new house, car, and other consumer loan services.

Metrobank has also extended a social initiative to the OFW by partnering with the government through the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Department of Labor, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration to provide financial literacy programs to help these workers manage their incomes and hard-earned funds.

As to remittance service, Metrobank offers the World Cash Card, a unique ATM card that allows beneficiaries of OFWs to get remittances faster and more conveniently through over 7,000 ATMs in the Philippines and over a million Cirrus-Maestro ATMs worldwide.

"Metrobank values the new heroes very highly," says Carmelita Araneta head of International Offices and Subsidiaries Group. "The bank has undertaken many initiatives to make sure OFW remittances are received real-time, on-line by the beneficiaries."

Growth for the Middle Market

The wheels of growth for the middle market segment are on a constant roll on a road paved with an exciting future. Thanks in large part to the growing Philippine economy, whose indicators reflect expanding income and spending of consumers, which in turn translates to expanding small to medium enterprises.

Credit also goes to banks like Metrobank, which has created suitable products to the middle market segment and consequently established rewarding relationships with them, poised to push and expand further economic growth in the country.

The biggest bank in the country recognizes the value and the role of the middle market in driving the economy. Delivering record growth in corporate lending in 2006, Metrobank will continue to expand its market reach to the small to medium scale enterprises extending to robust Chinese businesses.

With a renewed focus on the middle market, Metrobank has reorganized its Corporate Banking Group by forming new customer divisions and invigorating the marketing side. The strategy allowed for better understanding of clients' distinct business requirements and customizes product offerings that would match those requirements. As a result, a total of P26 billion in new loans were booked with 130 top-tier companies in 2006.

45 years
Metrobank

"What will really drive the country's economy is the middle market, as it has done in other Asian countries," says Bliz Cuna, Jr., head of Corporate Banking Group. "This is where the growth will come from. And Metrobank is looking at establishing a long-term relationship with the segment."

A strengthened franchise

As the Bank celebrates its 45th year of service to the Filipino, Metrobank continues to improve its product offerings and asset quality, increasing cross-selling activities within the Group to leverage on product diversity and distribution reach. With a fresh take on banking leadership, the Bank strengthens its brand franchise with a new corporate logo that signals a leader ready to meet the changing needs of the various markets it serves. Metrobank forges ahead with renewed strength and vigor, still staying true to its brand promise of keeping clients and the rest of its stakeholders in good hands.

9 fund managers vie for GSIS deal

By Michelle V. Remo

NINE FOREIGN FUND MANAGERS have expressed interest to become a global asset manager of the Government Service Insurance System.

These institutions that will present their proposals to the GSIS are BNP Paribas, Credit Agricole, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Asset Management, ING Investment Management, Northern Trust, Pacific Investment Management Co., Goldman Sachs and Societe Generale.

GSIS plans to get two to three managers to invest $1 billion of its assets in the international investment market.

GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia said it was prudent to invest a portion of the GSIS' assets abroad to further boost its income-generating potential.

"This strategy aims to diversify risks on our investments, maintain consistently high investment yields and put into practice good corporate governance over our investments," Garcia said in a statement.

As of December 2006, GSIS has $411.2 billion in assets, $44.2 billion or 12 percent higher than the $367 billion recorded in 2005.

The GSIS formally launched its selection process for fund managers two months ago.

"The response of the global investing community was overwhelming," Garcia said.

The $1 billion that GSIS plans to invest overseas comprises a small portion of its total assets. GSIS said the bulk of its assets will remain invested in the domestic market.

GSIS invests mainly in equities and government securities. Garcia, however, had said that GSIS also plans to increase its investments in the real estate business, such as by buying an idle asset and developing it into a residential-commercial zone to increase revenues.

GSIS net operating revenues stood at P41.56 billion last year, up 3 percent from 2005.

The increase in its income was partly attributed to higher yields on investments.

Choosing the right investment instruments was therefore crucial in ensuring good returns, he said.

GSIS also said its objective in investing offshore was to generate a consistent return of at least 8 percent over the next three years.

Malaysian firm starts drilling

By Abigail L. Ho

PETRONAS CARIGALI SDN BHD OF Malaysia has started drilling its first well off Mindoro.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, PNOC Exploration Corp. exploration manager Raymundo Savella said that as of Sept. 4, the drilling of the well in Service Contract 47 had already reached a depth of 546 meters.

Petronas holds the majority of SC 47 at 80 percent, while PNOC-EC holds a 19.4-percent stake. PetroEnergy Resources Corp. has a 0.4-percent share while Basic Petroleum Inc. has 0.2 percent.

Earlier in the year, the SC 47 consortium said an exploration well would be drilled within the Kamia Prospect, formerly Cherry Prospect, off Mindoro.

The proposed well, or Kamia 1, would be drilled to a depth of 1,500 meters.

The prospect has an estimated resource of around 158 million barrels of oil.

SC 47 covers an almost 1.5-million-hectare area off Mindoro, which contains the Tablas and Kamia prospects.

The drilling program is expected to cost $23 million.

Last week, the Department of Energy said it would soon begin negotiations with South China Resources Inc. and Pitkin Petroleum Ltd. for the possible award of a service contract for oil and gas exploration, also off Mindoro.

In a letter to Pitkin Petroleum country manager Christopher Jackson, Energy Undersecretary Guillermo Balce said that following the evaluation of two proposals submitted for that petroleum block, the South China-Pitkin proposal was chosen for negotiation.

"After a thorough evaluation of your financial, legal and technical qualifications, we are happy to inform you that we have selected your submitted proposal, together with South China Resources Inc., for a petroleum service contract in Area 4 under (the Philippine Energy Contracting Round 2006)," the letter stated.

"Two proposals were received for Area 4. We evaluated both proposals on the same criteria and found your proposal meeting priority consideration. In this regard, the DOE negotiating panel will notify you regarding the schedule of the commencement of negotiations to work out a mutually acceptable service contract," it added.

Area 4 under the DOE's PECR-3 covers approximately 1.16 million hectares in the Cuyo/Mindoro/East Palawan region.

PRULINK PRU LIFE U.K.

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week September 04, 2007	Last Week August 28, 2007
Bond Fund - Peso	1.60189	1.59308
Managed Fund - Peso	1.86263	1.84673
Growth Fund - Peso	1.79956	1.77242
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.3707	1.3646

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

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Investment Funds of Wealth Builder & Wealth Secure

	UNIT PRICES (in Php)	
	Sept. 3, 2007	August 24, 2007
Fixed Income Fund	1.276893	1.275435
Balanced Fund	1.443624	1.413368
Equity Fund	1.724213	1.652081

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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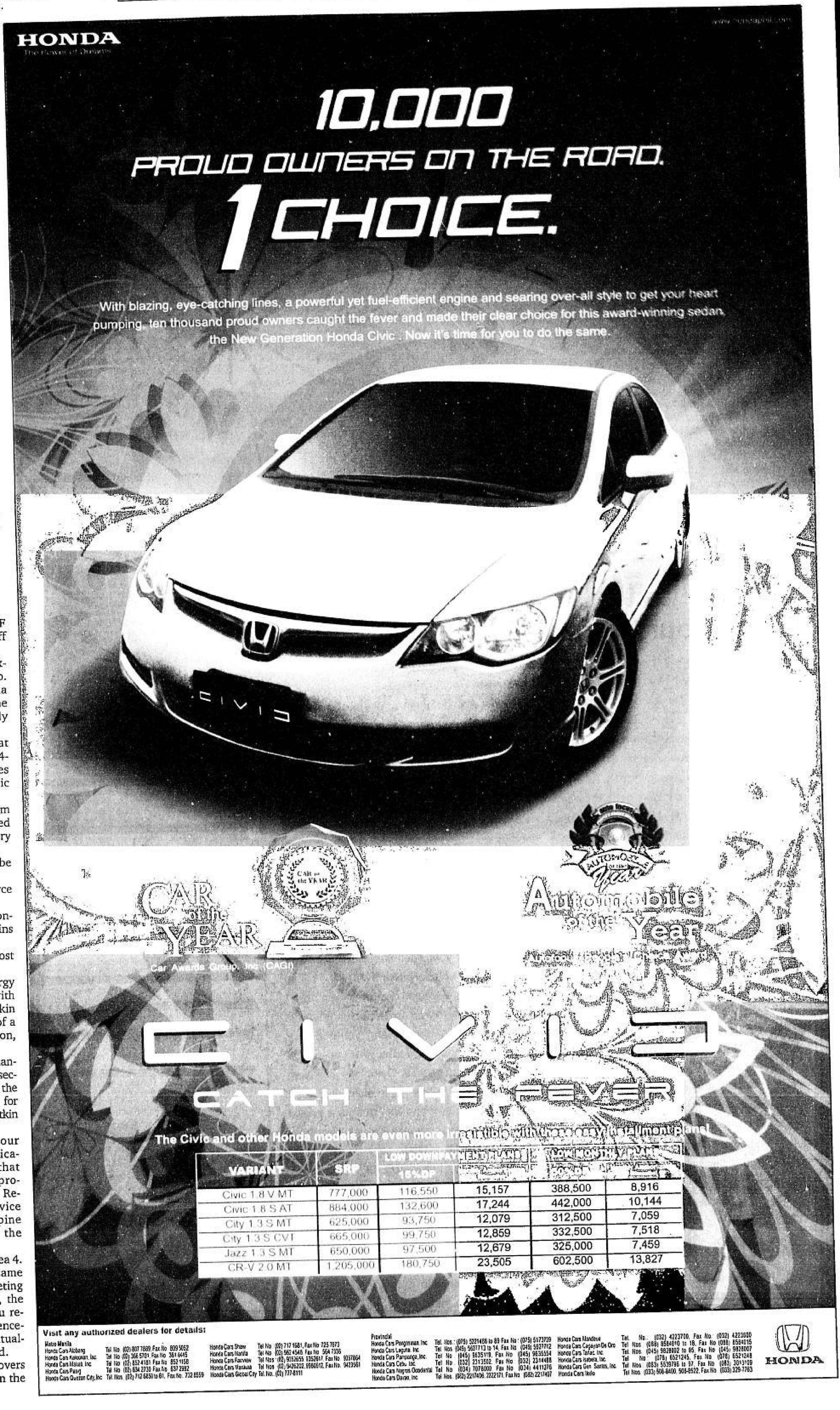

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Civic 1.8 S AT	884,000	132,600	17,244	442,000	10,144
City 1.3 S MT	625,000	93,750	12,079	312,500	7,059
City 1.3 S CVT	665,000	99,750	12,859	332,500	7,518
Jazz 1.3 S MT	650,000	97,500	12,679	325,000	7,459
CR-V 2.0 MT	1,205,000	180,750	23,505	602,500	13,827

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HONDA

SMC consolidates food units under San Miguel Pure Foods

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SAN MIGUEL CORP. IS CONSOLIDATING all its food businesses under San Miguel Pure Foods Co. Inc.

San Miguel Pure Foods is seeking regulatory approval to increase its capital to P1.46 billion from P840 million to cover a share swap with the parent firm.

In a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, San Miguel Pure Foods said SMC has subscribed to 44.42 million A-shares and 17 million B-shares of the increase in capital. SMC has also subscribed to 3.06 million A-shares and 6.36 million B-shares out of San Miguel Pure Foods' unissued capital stock.

The subscription will be paid in the form of shares in SMC units Magnolia Inc., Monterey Foods Corp. and San Miguel Foods Inc. worth a combined P4.59 billion based on book value as of Sept. 30, 2006.

SMC chief finance officer Ferdinand Constantino earlier said that the proposed transaction was aimed at rationalizing the corporate structure across SMC's different divisions and operating business units.

"Upon completion of the transaction, the different SMC food businesses will now be under SMPFC. This will also simplify financial reporting," Constantino said.

After the transaction, SMC's ownership in San Miguel Pure Foods will increase to 99.92 percent from 99.83 percent. San Miguel Pure Foods will, in turn, own 100 percent of SMFI and Magnolia, and 95.95 percent of Monterey, the company said in an earlier disclosure.

At the same time, newly incorporated beer manufacturing subsidiary San Miguel Brewery is also seeking SEC approval to raise its capital to P25 billion from P100 million.

The total P25 billion capital will consist of 250 million shares with a par value of P100.

SMC has subscribed 153.08 million shares worth roughly P15.3 billion of San Miguel Brewery, paying the subscription by assigning in favor of San Miguel Brewery certain assets in the domestic beer business.

Meantime, Arisaig Asean Fund Ltd., an investment fund managed by Singapore-based Arisaig Partners, said it has acquired a 5.24-percent stake in the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE).

Shares close lower on Wall St. slide

STOCK PRICES CLOSED 0.5-PERCENT lower yesterday, pulled down by the sharp losses on Wall Street overnight where hopes of an interest rate cut are fading, dealers said.

They said, however, that last-minute buying in index leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) gave the market some support.

The composite index fell 15.82 points to 3,326.53 off the day's low of 3,309.50. Volume amounted to 3.7 billion shares worth P3.5 billion. There were 66 decliners and 41 gainers, while 50 stocks were unchanged.

The all-share index fell 14.02 points to 2,115.54.

"Investors are unlikely to make aggressive moves ahead of the FOMC meeting. The Fed has given no assurance that it will slash interest rates despite market expectations of a rate cut soon," said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell more than 140 points on Wednesday as weak home sales data prompted investors to unload stocks.

"Investors are taking a defensive position because of the uncertainty in the US," said Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities.

"We can't agree with people saying we may be able to decouple from the US because of our good economic fundamentals. We share the same umbilical cord as Wall Street and other global markets," he said.

Ayala Land Inc. was a key drag on the composite index, down 25 centavos at P14 after Wednesday's modest gains.

Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) also retreated after a sharp rebound on Wednesday that followed a two-day selloff. The stock fell P2 to P81.

PLDT extended its gains after recent losses, advancing P10 to P2,720, a two-month high. *AFP*

CURRENCIES

September 6, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.732172	1.000000	46.6600
Japan	Yen	0.006354	0.008678	0.4049
United Kingdom	Pound	1.479792	2.021100	94.3045
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.093956	0.128325	5.9876
Switzerland	Franc	0.608167	0.830634	38.7574
Canada	Dollar	0.694990	0.949217	44.2905
Singapore	Dollar	0.479703	0.655179	30.5707
Australia	Dollar	0.602561	0.822978	38.4002
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.942306	2.652801	123.7797
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.195225	0.266638	12.4413
Brunei	Dollar	0.478137	0.653040	30.4708
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000078	0.000106	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022584	0.030845	1.4392
UAE	Dirham	0.199361	0.272287	12.7049
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.365800	63.7282
Korea	Won	0.000781	0.001067	0.0498
China	Yuan**	0.096981	0.132456	6.1804
Denmark	Kroner	0.134282	0.183402	8.5575
India	Rupee	0.017906	0.024456	1.1411
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.208804	0.285185	13.3067
New Zealand	Dollar	0.504042	0.688421	32.1217
Sweden	Kroner	0.106494	0.145450	6.7867
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022160	0.030266	1.4122

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Sept. 5, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.
** Asian time closing rate as of Sept. 5, 2007

When Plastic Is Better Than Paper: Using Your Credit Card to Save Money

Surprising but true - if you're one of those people who pay cash for your purchases, you could very well be spending instead of saving more.

Used wisely, a credit card offers rewards and rebates that can help you save more money and get better value versus paying in cash. As an example, HSBC credit cardholders get a 3% rebate for using their credit cards at Caltex gas stations. Given the high cost of gas nowadays, the amount saved with the rebate can be as much as a full tank's worth of gas in a year.

Using your credit card instead of cash can help you save money in many other ways. Some more peso-maximizing tips:

Use your credit card to accumulate travel miles. Cards such as the HSBC Mabuhay Miles Visa allow you to accumulate free miles each time you spend. Get 1 mile for every P45 spent, and before you know it, you have enough miles to exchange for a free Philippine Airlines ticket for your next vacation.

Be on the lookout for low-interest balance transfer deals. Balance transfer offers such as HSBC's Zero Interest Drop allow you to transfer your outstanding balance from another credit card at zero interest while enjoying flexible monthly payments. By refinancing your outstanding credit card balance, you can save a lot on credit card interest payments.

Do your homework. Read the literature that arrives with your credit card statements so you can find out and take advantage of special offers or promos, particularly when buying big-ticket items. A large number of merchants allow HSBC cardholders to purchase items on installment for up to 24 months at 0% interest, with some establishments offering the added bonus of double or triple miles on your card spend.

Always ask. Sometimes, establishments forget to let customers know about special deals offered with credit card tie-ups. Always ask the attending staff before you pay, if you can avail of discounts or giveaways on your credit card.

Of course, while using your credit card can help save you money, abusing your credit card is another story, and a costly one at that. To avoid the perils of irresponsible credit card use, take note of the following:

Don't overspend. Just because it's plastic doesn't mean it isn't real. Shop carefully and don't spend more than you can afford.

Keep track of your spending. Save copies of sales slips and compare them with your billing statement. If there are any discrepancies, report them immediately to your credit card company.

Pay your bills promptly. Even if you don't pay off your entire balance, make sure you pay at least the minimum on time. This helps you avoid late penalties and allows you to maintain a good credit record. Know when your due date is, and call your credit card company if your billing statement doesn't arrive on time.

Protect yourself from fraud. Sign new cards immediately. Don't lend your credit card to anyone - even friends and family. Don't give out your credit card information to unauthorized personnel. Call your credit card company immediately if your card is lost or stolen.

Credit cards provide convenience, security and savings. Use them wisely, and you too will see that plastic can truly be better than paper. For more on responsible credit, visit the website http://www.hsbc.com.ph/ph/cce/default.htm

ADVT

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 6, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.4	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	1,000
73	36.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	56.5	56.5	56	56.5	1,070,600
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	60.5	61.5	60.5	61.5	1,427,500
935	630	China Banking Corp.	810	810	805	805	4,920
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23	23	23	23	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank, Inc	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	250,000
75.5	38	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	56.5	57.5	56.5	57	1,821,600
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	46.5	46.5	46.5	46.5	67,200
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	63	63	63	63	200
39.57	14.57	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	24.25	24.25	24	24	985,200
90	49.5	Security Bank Corp.	73	73	72.5	72.5	21,200
66	42.53	Union Bank of the Philippines	56	56.5	56	56.5	63,700
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.76	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	25,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	2.08	2.1	2.08	2.08	331,000
16.25	2.6	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.75	262,300
8.8	4	Filipino Fund Inc.	7	7	7	7	1,000
42	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	5,000
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.3	3.35	3.3	3.35	463,000
3.1	1	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.88	1.9	1.88	1.9	72,000
1,005.00	225	The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc	760	785	760	785	117,210
2,265.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,250.00	2,265.00	2,250.00	2,265.00	3,230
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	9,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	11,993,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.26	1,800,000
70	47.5	First Gen Corp.	63	65.5	63	65.5	292,000
92	45	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	75.5	76	75.5	76	764,100
15	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	14.25	14.25	14	14	269,700
105.45	16.14	Manila Electric Co.	81.5	82	78	81	1,229,800
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.3	6,822,000
6.5	3.75	Petron Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4	5,980,000
14.75	6.7	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7	7.1	7	7	137,000
1.9	0.95	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.24	1.3	1.24	1.26	3,554,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	2.95	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	1,579,000
2.95	1.86	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2	2	1.96	1.96	926,000
2.65	1.08	CADP Group Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1,000
61	33	Jollibee Foods Corp.	53.5	54	53	54	266,600
9	4.7	Pancake House Inc.	8.2	8.5	8.2	8.5	9,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.22	2.26	2.22	2.24	174,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	63	63	62	62.5	28,800
88	60	San Miguel Corp. "B"	65.5	65.5	64.5	65	32,100
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	3,329,100
0.55	0.205	Vitarich Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.37	0.37	60,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.59	EEI Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.35	246,000
9.2	4.75	Holcim Philippines Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	5,000
7	1.28	Republic Cement Corp.	4	4.25	3.9	4.25	1,645,000
2	0.28	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.18	1.1	1.14	17,404,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.1	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.3	4.35	4.25	4.35	594,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.1	Picop Resources Inc.	0.33	0.36	0.33	0.34	21,450,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
0.17	0.025	AJO.net Holdings Inc	0.0825	0.09	0.0825	0.0875	39,600,000
1.28	0.21	APC Group Inc.	0.58	0.61	0.58	0.6	2,640,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.95	3.05	2.9	3.05	539,000
3.7	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	3	3.45	3	3.45	206,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	38,000,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	1,189,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	53,000,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	33,000,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.22	2.26	2.2	2.24	1,699,000
590	370.83	Ayala Corp.	467.5	470	465	465	125,290
14.5	7.04	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	52,400
5.8	1.18	Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.75	3.8	21,487,000
10.25	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.2	2,225,000
6.9	1.06	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	5,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	695,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	391,000
14.5	5.7	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	46,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.8	1.84	1.8	1.84	12,000
11.5	0.98	Multitech Investments Corp.	4.45	4.6	4.4	4.6	1,555,000
8.2	2.8	PAL Holdings Inc.	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.1	187,000
0.17	0.01	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.1	0.165	0.1	0.165	1,965,670,000
0.75	0.17	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	2,050,000
452.5	215.79	SM Investments Corp.	372.5	375	367.5	367.5	46,170
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.34	6,590,000
1.6	0.88	South China Resources Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.4	1.4	250,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.5	61,900
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	4,560,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.78	A Brown Co. Inc	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.48	703,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings, Inc	7.4	7.6	7.4	7.5	295,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.66	0.68	0.66	0.68	130,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc.	14	14.25	13.75	14	23,368,500
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.1	3,430,000
4.7	2.26	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	8,000
2.9	1.3	Cityland Development Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.6	1.96	9,000
0.86	0.29	Crown Equities Inc	0.61	0.61	0.58	0.61	1,390,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	560,000
0.99	0.49	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.68	6,720,000
0.47	0.048	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.215	0.225	8,340,000
1.48	0.43	Fil-Estate Land Inc	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.12	2,582,000
2.44	1.09	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.44	1.48	33,107,000
0.49	0.1	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	300,000
0.5	0.1	Gotesco Land Inc. "B"	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.61	12,340,000
4.4	1.62	Megaworld Corp.	3.3	3.35	3.3	3.35	24,081,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.95	3.95	1,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.34	620,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.47	0.45	0.46	1,250,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	1,000
23	12.5	Robinson Land Corp.	18	18	17.75	18	1,025,000
5.9	1.42	SM Development Corp.	4.05	4.05	4	4	895,000
13.5	6.24	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.5	11	11.5	12,838,200
3.25	0.85	Shang Properties Inc.	2.6	2.65	2.5	2.65	397,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.58	0.61	0.58	0.61	2,460,000
0.49	0.08	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,170,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5	5	4.95	5	3,345,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	16	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	31	31.5	31	31.5	56,000
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	9.6	9.8	9.6	9.8	555,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc	1.24	1.26	1.2	1.26	1,068,000
1,445.00	1,025.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,350.00	1,350.00	1,345.00	1,350.00	80,570
2,820.00	1,980.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,695.00	2,720.00	2,695.00	2,720.00	135,030
7.9	4.1	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.9	445,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	3,010,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.1	20,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.6	8.6	8.4	8.6	432,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.029	0.031	0.029	0.031	55,900,000
29.5	8	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	16.5	17.5	15	15	12,000
2.9	1.56	Ionics Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	380,000
0.32	0.043	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.175	0.2	0.175	0.195	169,330,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.26	160,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb Com Inc.	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.049	24,200,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc.	2.44	2.6	2.44	2.5	3,382,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	2.1	2.12	2.06	2.1	1,448,000
6.8	3.05	Asian Terminals Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.7	3.7	181,000
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	16,000
2.04	1.04	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	[illegible]
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.55	2.75	2.55	2.75	320,000
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.49	0.53	0.49	0.53	620,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	10,000
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.8	184,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	4.25	4.35	4.25	4.3	411,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.75	73,000
30	9.9	Payvs Inc.	14	14.5	14	14.5	271,400
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	57,000,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.7	4,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	2,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.25	13.75	1,178,400
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. "A"	10	10	10	10	1,000
3.1	0.33	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	1.46	1.56	1.46	1.5	46,630,000
0.35	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	41,710,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.29	1,400,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	152,400,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	35,500,000
30	1.2	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	10.25	10.75	10.25	10.75	622,600
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	22,500,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5	4,756,000
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1	1.04	0.99	0.99	840,000
1.8	0.56	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.16	1.18	619,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	4,670,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	243,800,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.022	0.024	0.022	0.024	55,800,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	10,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.022	0.024	0.022	0.024	279,000,000

	AVERAGES		VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	877.41 DOWN	1.47	7,002,160	390,295,170.00
Industrial	4,560.72 DOWN	52.95	80,591,200	445,830,095.00
Holding Firms	1,819.93 DOWN	15.67	2,175,819,860	656,016,210.00
Property	1,481.20 DOWN	21.89	141,565,700	670,693,380.00
Service	1,621.94 UP	1.47	262,783,000	723,127,295.00
Mining & Oil	5,749.20 UP	1.71	948,443,000	151,608,595.00
All Shares Index	2,115.54 DOWN	14.02		
PSEI	3,326.53 DOWN	15.82		
		GRAND TOTALS	3,616,204,920	3,037,570,745.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

Exports of coco products down

By Amy R. Remo

EXPORTS OF MAJOR COconut-based products fell 33.8 percent in the first seven months of the year despite the gains in July, industry data showed.

Exports as of July reached only 828,935 metric tons in copra terms, down from last year's 1.25 million metric tons, according to preliminary data from the United Coconut Associations of the Philippines.

Exports of most product categories fell during the period.

Coconut oil was down 40 percent year-on-year to 402,449 metric tons; copra meal by 41 percent to 159,171 metric tons and desiccated coconut, by 8 percent to 71,758 metric tons.

Only oleochemicals bucked the trend with exports increasing by 20 percent to 79,184 metric tons from last year's 65,887 metric tons.

July exports, meanwhile, stood at 153,262 metric tons in copra terms, up 18.8-percent from last year's 129,026 metric tons.

This was the first year-on-year growth recorded for 2007, according to Ucap.

Performers in July were coconut oil and oleochemicals.

Coconut oil exports shot up in July by 20.7 percent to 77,602 metric tons from last year's 64,316 metric tons, while exports of oleochemicals as copra more than doubled to 15,035 metric tons from 7,215 metric tons last year.

Shipments of copra meal contracted by 7.5 percent to 25,315 metric tons from 27,367 metric tons.

Desiccated coconut, meanwhile, scaled back delivery by 23.7 percent to 9,734 metric tons from 12,756 metric tons.

About 59 percent (45,626 metric tons) of coconut oil shipped out in July went to Europe while the United States absorbed 33.5 percent (25,978 metric tons).

Foreigner as board chair

Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica

IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE A side effect of globalization, nonstock corporations with multiracial memberships seem to be on the rise in the country.

The practice of organizing chambers of commerce of Filipino businessmen and expatriates of particular countries to promote common interests is still in vogue.

But the interaction has expanded beyond the business circles.

It's no longer uncommon to see grassroots-based organizations whose members are Filipinos and citizens of countries who have a strong presence in the community.

No longer content with just making money, many of these foreigners are actively engaged in efforts to improve the living conditions of our less fortunate countrymen. (Incidentally, I do not want to call them aliens because of the extraterrestrial connotation of that word.)

Some foreigners though are unsure about the extent of their allowable participation in this extracurricular activity. And if they contribute money to these endeavors, they do not know if that action allows them to have a bigger say in managing the affairs of their organization.

Objectives

With these concerns in mind, a non-stock corporation being organized by Filipinos and Japanese nationals sought guidance from the Securities and Exchange Commission on governance issues.

The proposed corporation's principal objective is to assist in the development of technical skills among members and nonmembers to support the government's anti-poverty and socioeconomic programs.

Aside from making available all-expenses paid training, the corporation wants to give financial, housing and medical assistance to its target beneficiaries.

Although the majority of the members are Filipinos, the organizers want some Japanese members to act as trustees and have one of them elected as chair of the corporation.

Before formalizing things, however, the organizers wanted to know if that arrangement can be maintained without running afoul with our laws on foreign participation in local activities.

The SEC stated that the nationality of the stockholders or members of a corporation becomes material in its organization only if the activity it wants to engage in is covered by citizenship requirements under the Constitution and existing laws.

Under our Constitution, certain areas of activity in the country have been reserved for the exclusive exercise or enjoyment by citizens of the Philippines, or by corporations or associations at least 60 percent of the capital of which is owned by Filipinos.

Ownership

In addition, some of our laws require that a certain percentage of the capital of certain businesses be owned by Filipinos before a permit or license to operate can be issued by the regulatory authority.

These nationality requirements apply regardless of the kind of corporation, stock or non-stock, that may be formed for that purpose.

If the benchmark on allowable foreign ownership of the capital of affected corporations is not complied with, the responsible parties, including the corporation itself, could face administrative fines and penalties under the Anti-Dummy Law.

In the case at hand, the SEC said that as long as the association or non-stock corporation does not intend to engage in a nationalized activity (or is covered by ownership limits), a foreigner can serve as its chair or be a member of its board of trustees.

The enjoyment of this privilege, however, is subject to the condition that the trustees are members of the association and majority of the trustees are residents of the Philippines.

On the other hand, if the association engages in partly nationalized activities (or those that do not require full Filipino capital ownership) foreigners may sit in the board in proportion to their allowable membership in the organization under applicable laws.

In this particular situation, a foreigner may even assume the position of board chair as long as he is limited to presiding at board meetings.

On the basis of this explanation, the SEC advised the organizers of the proposed corporation to take a second look at its proposed area of activity to determine their qualification for non-stock incorporation.

Comment: The activities that non-stock corporations or associations usually engage in to accomplish their social or charitable objectives include small scale lending, operation of skills training centers, recruitment for local or foreign employment, and organization of savings cooperatives (or "paluwagan").

These activities are covered by varying nationality ownership requirements. To avoid delays in incorporation, it is advisable for organizers of non-stock corporations to check first with their lawyers on these benchmarks before they finalize their operational plans. *(For feedback, please write to rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.)*

5-star hotel to rise in Bonifacio

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FORT BONIFACIO DEVELOPMENT CORP. and a property developer has agreed in principle to put up a five-star hotel worth as much as $250 million, according to the Bases Conversion Development Authority.

Narciso L. Abaya, president of BCDA, which has a 45-percent stake in FBDC, said the planned hotel would help boost his agency's drive to encourage high-end tourism accommodation projects in the Bonifacio Global City.

Abaya declined to disclose the identity of the hotel developer, saying BCDA agreed to keep details confidential.

"We cannot talk about it for now, but the investment would range between $150 million and $250 million," he said.

"We expect more high-end development activities to come in because of a project like this," he added.

Also, Abaya said the construction of the St. Luke's Medical Center was in full swing and the hospital would be operational by 2009.

"St. Luke's would be a modern facility that would cater to local residents and people from all over the world," he added.

Other upcoming projects include an office building for business process outsourcing firms, with a gross floor area of 30,000 square meters.

A 31-story tower is also expected to be completed by 2010, following an FBDC pact with the Philippine Stock Exchange to put the PSE's two boards under one roof.

Further, Abaya said BCDA was stepping up its campaign to lure high-end development projects into the Bonifacio Global City as it expected completion of more projects by the end of the year.

Completed or ongoing residential projects include Serendra, Forbeswood Heights, Kensington, Bellagio, Fairways, South of Market, Fifth Avenue Place.

Office buildings, on the other hand, include Net Square, HSBC Building, Hanjin Philippines' building, and the Singapore Chancery.

Abaya said the upswing in the real estate industry was sustaining the rapid growth of development in Bonifacio Global City.

Other projects in the former military base involve retail developments like the Bonifacio High Street, which is "on high gear, having completed seven buildings for retail tenants."

BCDA vice president Aileen Zosa said the agency was encouraging high-end projects such as hotels of at least five-star rating.

Zosa said China's real estate development giant Shanghai Shimao group had expressed interest to develop a six-star hotel in the Bonifacio Global City.

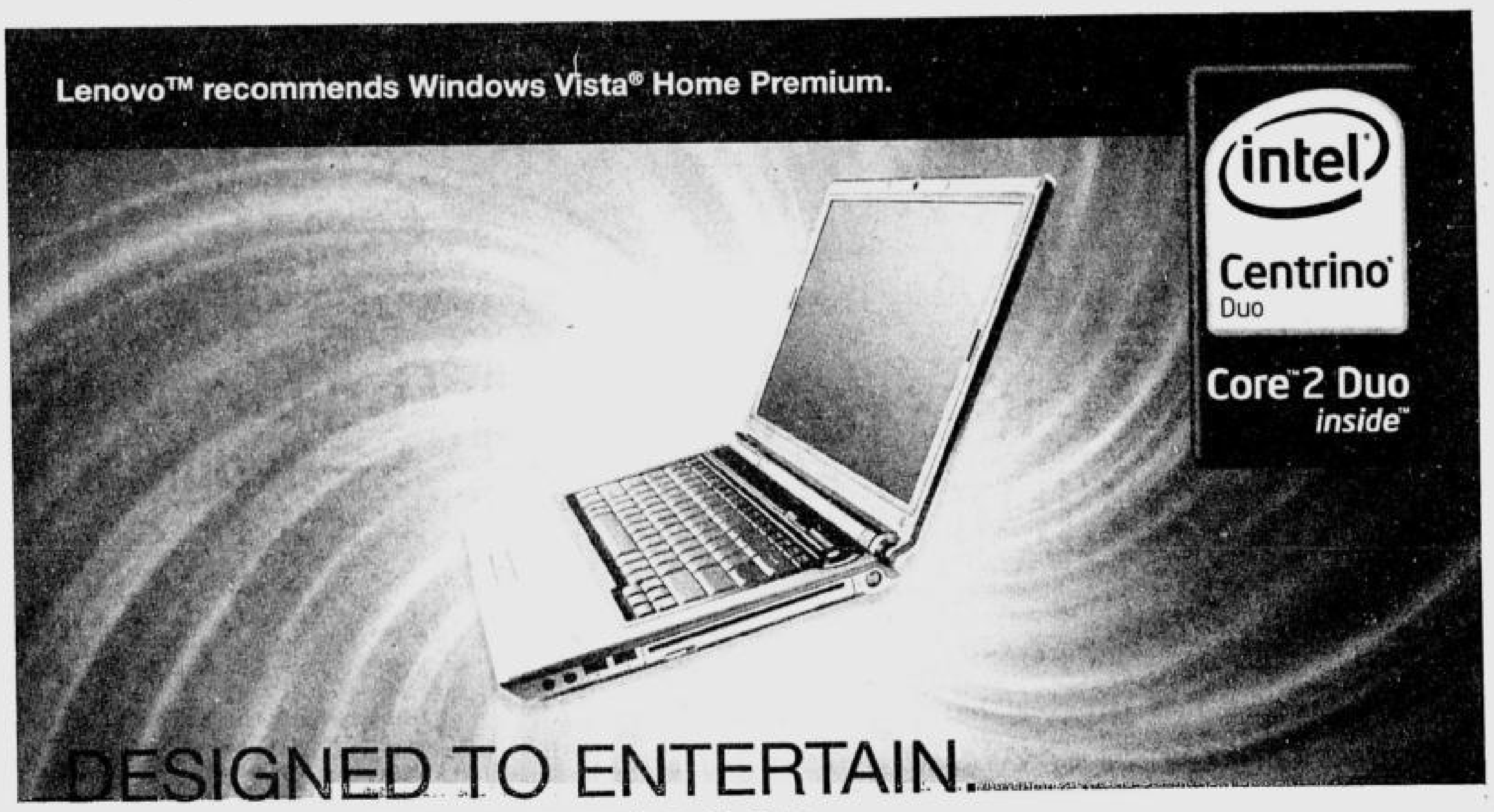
Mr. Victor Jeffery, Executive Director of Asian Integrated Media Ltd. Welcomes Mr. Ramon Martelino, Country Manager of Levi Strauss Philippines in participating the Consumers Choice Programme.

From L - R: Mr. Jeffery, Ms. Rochelle Sarte, Brand Liaison Officer of Asian Integrated Media Ltd., Ms. Genevieve Jimenez Ramos, Levi's Consumer Marketing Manager, Mr. Ronnie Celestial, Levi's Brand Leader and Mr. Ramon Martelino, Country Manager of Levi Strauss Philippines

Levi's Joins Consumers Choice Program

At a special ceremony on Aug 30 Asian Integrated Media (HK) Ltd (AIM) Executive Director, Victor Jeffery, announced that one of the worlds most famous Icons, LEVI'S, has just joined the ever growing list of the top brands in the Philippines to become a ' Consumers Choice' recipient.

AIM works closely with global research agency Synovate to identify the Filipino consumers most preferred choice of brands based on 'Trust', 'Quality' and 'Integrity'.



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SEC Building, Englis Guadalupe
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Securities and Exchange Commission, Cebu Extension Office, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Project	: Repair/Restoration of the SEC Cebu Extension Office Building
Location	: SEC Bldg., V. Rama Avenue, Englis Guadalupe, Cebu City
Brief Description	: General Repairs of ground, second, third, fourth & roof deck
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	: P 5,559,408.00
Contract duration	: 150 calendar days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	September 8 to 14, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	September 15 to 22, 2007
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	September 20 to 29, 2007
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	October 8, 2007
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 9 to 17, 2007
6. Pre-Bid Conference	October 31, 2007
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	November 12, 2007

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at SEC, Cebu Extension Office upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,500.00 to the Securities and Exchange Commission's Cashier. Prospective Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,500.00 to the Securities and Exchange Commission's Cashier.

The SEC, Cebu Extension Office assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved By:
(Sgd.) **Lorna N. Fick-Cubero**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Aug. 31 & Sept. 7, 2007)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Biliran Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BILECO) invites interested parties who are qualified to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following schedules of Capital Projects with an Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) as indicated;

a.	Supply, Installation, Testing, and Commissioning of 5 mVA Power Transformer, Biliran Sub-Station	Ph P 20,600,000.00
b.	Supply, Installation, Testing, and Commissioning of 69 kV Power Circuit Breaker and Control System of 3.15 mVA Power Transformer, Biliran Sub-Station	Ph P 3,700,000.00
c	Site Development of 5 mVA Power Substation and Area Office in Biliran, Biliran	Ph P 2,100,000.00

The above stated Capital Projects shall be contracted on a design and build scheme with financing.

Pre-Eligibility Conference is scheduled on September 25, 2007 / 10:00 a.m. at BILECO MPB, Caraycaray, Naval, Biliran. Issuance of Eligibility Documents will be on September 26-28, 2007. Deadline for the submission of Application for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements) shall be on October 2, 2007 / 10:00 a.m. at the Office of the Bids and Award Committee, Biliran Electric Cooperative, Inc., Caraycaray, Naval, Biliran. Bid documents shall be issued only to eligible Bidder on October 4-5, 2007 upon payment of non-refundable fee of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (Php 15,000.00) at the Secretariat of Bids and Awards Committee (BAC). Pre-Bid Conference will be held at BILECO MPB, Caraycaray, Naval, Biliran on October 8, 2007 / 10.00 a.m.. Bid Opening will be conducted on October 22, 2007 / 10:00 a.m. at Marvin James Seaside Inn Conference Hall, Brgy. Atipolo, Naval, Biliran.

Eligibility and bid documents of Bidder shall be evaluated using a non-discretionary "PASS/FAIL criteria. All particulars relative to the eligibility tendering, competitive bidding, and award of Contract shall be in accordance with BILECO Policy No. 98-13 as amended. All proposals shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the Bidder's offer to the Contract put out to bid and shall be subject to Post qualification before an award is made

BILECO reserves the right to reject any application for eligibility and any or all proposals, declare a failure of bidding and to waive any required formality therein, and or to make an award to Bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the electric cooperative.

A letter expressing the intent of the Bidder to apply for eligibility and to bid must be submitted to the Bids and Awards Committee prior to purchase of Eligibility Documents. All communications shall be addressed to the undersigned on the above address with telephone number (053) 500-9041 and facsimile number (053) 500-9744.

RODRIGO P. ROMERO, M.E.
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Manila Peñafrancia festivities

THE PEÑAFRANCIA DEVOTEES ASSOciation invites everyone to the triduum of Masses and Novena to the Virgin of Peñafrancia, at the St. Andrew the Apostle Parish Church, N. Garcia (Reposo St.), Bel-Air, Makati City on Sept. 6 and 7 at 6 p.m. and Sept. 8, 5 p.m.

On Sunday, a Peñafrancia Fluvial Procession along the Pasig River will start from the Makati Parks and Garden at Guadalupe and going all the way to the Escolta Ferry Landing at the foot of Jones Bridge. The Image of "INA" will be carried by a barge and accompanied by 200 male devotees.

From Escolta, the Image of "INA" will be carried by volunteer female devotees on foot to the Manila Cathedral.

A Solemn Concelebrated High Mass will highlight the celebration at the Manila Cathedral at 6:00 p.m., on September 9, 2007.

For further inquiries, call our Secretariat, at Tel. Nos. 531-5177, 531-8797. 531-6158 or 531-9430.

OBITUARIES

ROSALINA BUHAIN NAVARRO

September 4, 1917 – September 4, 2007

It is with great sadness & loss to announce the death of our beloved mother (**CHALING**) after a lengthy stay at St. Dominic Medical Center, Inc. She was predeceased by her husband **POL NAVARRO** and grandchildren **Noel Munson, Wyona & Nerissa Blas**. She is survived by her loving children **Mary, Tessie (Ramon) Kasilag, Lourdes (Benny) Munson, Susan (Arnaldo†) Blas, Rudolfo (Lily), Angelito (Tesie/Beng), Apollo (Fe), Robin (Litz) & Norma (Jack) Boechler**, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, sisters **Elisa Parungao, Patricia (Renato) Custodio**, sister-in-law **Amparo Buhain**, brothers-in-law **Angel Sumillano & Tomas Cubil**.

She served as Public School Teacher, Guidance Cousellor and Principal.
She retired as District Supervisor of Bacoor I and II.
After retirement, she was the President of Bacoor Retirees & Friends.
She was a very devoted mother to her family.

Her remains lie in state at LA BIEN MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
(Gen. Aguinaldo Chapel) Maliksi II, Bacoor, Cavite.

Her interment will take place on Sunday, September 9, 2007
at Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat Rd., Parañaque City.

Funeral procession will start at 12:00 nn. The Funeral Mass
will be officiated by the Most Reverend Theodoro Buhain Jr., D.D.
at 1:30 p.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Parish Church.

Lt. Col. (Ret) Filemon "Titong" Hequibal Guerrero, Jr.

At the age of 93, he was called home to Heaven on the 1st of September 2007 in Glendale, California, USA after a short illness.

Born in Juban, Sorsogon, he has served the Philippine Military, Quarter Master General for 37 years. Immigrated in US in 1980, his wife, the former ***Romana Raymundo Bautista*** *preceded him in death in 1992.*

He is survived by his 5 children, all from California, USA, **J Natalia (†Toti Bataç)** of Los Angeles, **Raul (Cora Dykia)** of Eagle Rock, **Raquel (Allen Rose)** of Tujunga, **Maribel Carandang & Joel** both of Eagle Rock, 11 grandchildren, **Pinky** of L.A., **Rommel (Ching) & Richard (Aimee) Batac** of L.A. **Jennifer (Andy), Christopher** and **Sherylyn Guerrero** of Glendale, **Vanessa Martires** of Manhattan Beach & **Edelynn Martires** of Tujunga, **Cezar (Tina) & Alex (Gol) Carandang** of San Diego & **Raffy Guerrero** of Riverside, 9 great-grandchildren **Jhanelle & Jhenelyn Gregorio, Andrei & Angelo Batac, Christina, Celine & Nathan Carandang, Lance Batac & Kailee Martires-Sabangan** of Tujunga, sisters **Milagros & Feves** and brothers **Antonio & Danilo**.

He will be missed by those who knew him as a loving and thoughtful man.

Rosary hour will be held on the vigil night and the Burial Mass followed by a military funeral in Glendale, California, U.S.A. at 9 am, September 6, 2007.

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69th Birthday

Elsa Mercado Gatchalian

September 7, 1938 - January 25, 2007

The Soul departed in the Lord does not die,
it returns to God who is the Giver of Life.

No farewell words were spoken,
No time to say goodbye,
You were gone before we knew it,
And only God knows why.

Fondest Aloha and Sayonara From:
Ester Calingo Elona, Virgie Galapia Yumen
and
Alvin M. Yumen

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

Mama Ambel

ISABEL RUBIO ALCASID

(July 8, 1916 – September 4, 2007)

"My spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour"

Her bereaved husband, **Col. Domingo A. Alcasid** (Ret.), daughter **Mila** and son-in-law **Gen. Patrocinio Marcos** (Ret.), sons and daughters-in-law **Larry & Judith, Maj. Gen. Reynaldo Alcasid** (Ret.) & **Mina, Robert**, grandchildren, **Patrick, Jeff, Sheela, Nick, Mee, Karl, Rina, Sol, Mike, Larae, Bobbie** and **Mark**, great-grandchildren, **Yaya Rose & Beng**, relatives and friends, request readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels & Crematorium, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be at Heritage Memorial Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City on Wednesday, September 12, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.

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BCDA looking for temporary operator of SCTEx

Agency to talk with 3 groups vying for short-term contract

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT Authority said it was preparing to negotiate with a possible "interim operator" of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway after competitive bidding for a 10-year contract failed twice.

Narciso L. Abaya, BCDA president and chief executive, told reporters the interim contract would be for six months up to a year.

"We would negotiate soon because we expect to open Package 2 of the SCTEx within the year," Abaya said.

He was referring to the 43.27-kilometer Clark-Tarlac leg—a four-lane asphalt overlay that would cut travel time from about two hours to about 20 minutes.

The 50-km Subic-Clark section, which is expected to cut travel time from two hours to a half-hour, will be opened next year.

Abaya added that, following government policies, BCDA would be negotiating with at least three potential temporary operators.

"BCDA would conduct a third bidding for the long-term contract," he said. "We need to get the SCTEx operating as smoothly as possible because we need it to accommodate growing traffic in Central Luzon."

However, construction work continued to be hounded by delays as the Japanese contractors have asked for extension of deadlines for the completion of both sections.

Package 2 is supposed to be finished by October. But contractor Hazama-Taisei-Nippon Steel (HTN) Joint Venture is asking for a second extension of 54 days. This section was originally supposed to be finished by August 2007.

Abaya said BCDA has so far not agreed on a second extension of delivery time.

As for Package 1, contractor Kajima-Obayashi-JFE Engineering-Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Joint Venture (KOJM-JV) has asked for a four-month extension, which means that the section would be completed by March 2008.

Abaya said the second bidding for the 10-year contract failed because the two bidders asked for prices that were above the set ceiling.

BCDA had set a ceiling bid of a 12.2-percent operator's share of toll fees collected within the 10-year contract period.

BCDA bankrolled the construction of the project through a P21-billion loan from the government of Japan through the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

40 years on and still dishing out pleasures of travel

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FEATURE

IT WAS THE JAPANESE WHO INspired former Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban to put up 'Baron Travel Corp.

Big travelers that they are, the Japanese have been coming to the Philippines in droves to enjoy the sunny weather, hit the beach or play a nice round of golf.

Thinking that the Philippines would continue to attract visitors from Asia's largest economy, Panganiban invested in Baron in 1967 to get a slice of the inbound market and earn from tourists coming to the country.

Panganiban was also encouraged in part by a vow he made to himself when he had to give up a scholarship to Yale because he had no money to fly there. He made sure that his children would not have any problem flying.

Exactly 40 years later today, Baron has grown from a seven-man operation in a small office on Padre Faura in Manila into one of the country's largest travel agencies that services not just the Japanese, but tourists and corporate travelers from all over the world.

The road to prosperity, however, was far from smooth.

Baron president and CEO Marilen P. Sandejas-Yaptangco tells the INQUIRER that, true to the nature of the volatile tourism industry, Baron has gone through many peaks and valleys over the past 40 years.

Yaptangco, eldest of Panganiban's five children, relates how the travel industry is very sensitive to political and economic turmoil. The merest hint of trouble scares away visitors, as seen during periods of political upheaval.

That happened when Martial Law was declared in 1972, when Senator Benigno Aquino was assassinated in 1983, and when the masses held the People Power uprising in 1986. That same year, Yaptangco was asked by her father to help him run the company.

She admits that, during her early years, she was just enjoying herself seeing the beauty of the Philippines and the top tourist destinations in the world while learning how to run the travel agency.

"For the first three years, I was having the time of my life," Yaptangco says. I went all over the world and all over the country. I was single and I did not need to handle any of the financials."

At the time she joined, Baron has expanded into the inbound and outbound tourism market with 150 employees. Her father was still leading the charge at the same time he was building a formidable law practice.

Little did Yaptangco know then that she would be put to tests more difficult than what her father went through.

For one, Yaptangco had to bear the death of a husband in 1992 after just four years of marriage, leaving her with a young son.

When she remarried in 1995, she found herself alone handling the reins of Baron because her father was named to the Supreme Court. Thus, he had to leave the company in her young hands.

"My life changed because suddenly, I couldn't rely on him totally anymore," she says. "He was so busy and I was really on my own ... I really had big shoes to fill."

Yaptangco proved up to the challenge when she introduced the Philippine travel agency market to vacation cruises.

She learned about it during a travel exhibit in Germany and excitedly told her father about it when she came back to the Philippines.

While he did not share her enthusiasm at the start, he supported her decision for Baron to become the local agent of the Royal Caribbean Cruises at a time when the concept of cruising was still alien in Asia.

That proved to be a timely decision because cruise vacations came into vogue and the revenues there partly made up for the cut in airline ticket commissions.

Then, as fate would have it, Baron and the rest of the travel industry found itself in one crisis after another—the Sept. 11, 2001 bombing of the World Trade Center, the 2003 SARS epidemic in Asia, and the bird flu outbreak—that kept many travelers in their homes and firmly away from the tourist scene.

"That was a deep hole that the entire industry fell into, we were lucky to manage to crawl out of it," adds Yaptangco, who admits her management skills were truly put to the test.

She describes those days as "the worst" in her history.

At that time, long-haul travel disappeared from the market. The industry just relied on the few regional and corporate travels who braved the industry turbulence. The sudden drop in business took its toll on travel companies, even one as large as Baron.

Yaptangco says she had to go to the extreme of letting go of 30 percent of the workforce in two tranches because there was just not enough business coming in to pay the salaries. She merged divisions, closed some offices and cut costs to the bone.

YAPTANGCO

But it was because Baron became a lean and mean travel agency that it managed to survive the crises.

"I just prayed a lot and hoped that the industry will hold together," Yaptangco says. "I just kept on believing in the country."

She also put a little more faith in herself and in Baron's signature service, which made it a force to reckon with in the industry. That is one reason why Baron emerged from its challenges better than ever.

Yaptangco is not about to stop doing more for Baron.

"I believe that my mission is to take Baron where I think my Dad would take it," she says.

So far, so good.

GOINGS-ON

Asian Spirit offers P18 flights

Asian Spirit offers P18++ flights to all local destinations in support of the 18th Philippine Travel Mart (PTM) slated at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall on Sept. 7-9, 2007.

The P18++ fare is for one-way domestic flights of Asian Spirit and is exclusive of taxes.

This low rate is valid for travel from Sept. 8 to Oct. 15, 2007 and is only available for booking and buying on-site at booths 2 & 3 of Asian Spirit during the PTM.

"Everyone is advised to book and buy early because of the expected influx of those wanting to avail themselves of this rare treat," said Paul Sison, vice president of sales and marketing of Asian Spirit.

With the recent acquisition of 3 British Aerospace 146 Jet aircraft, the only jet to Caticlan, the company is able to cut travel time and increase passenger comfort.

Media interface at Club Filipino

The coalition on Socially Responsible Small and Medium Enterprises in Asia (CSR-SME Asia) will conduct a forum at Club Filipino on Sept. 8, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Focusing on members of the fourth estate, CSR-SME Asia has invited print and broadcast journalists to attend the forum.

Manila Hotel president and former Sen. Jose Lina, who used to be a journalist himself before he entered politics, said it is about time members of the media get the help that they deserve, allowing them to improve their standard of living.

According to one study, 70 percent of journalists or writers in the country are paid just over the minimum wage—way below their counterparts in other Asian countries.

CSR-SME Asia aims to help journalists by providing them with loans that have lower rates of interest compared to banks and other lending institutions, said Ben Quinones, chairman CSR-SME Asia.

The event will be held at the UP Bahay Alumni in Diliman, Quezon City on Oct. 17.

Meat and fish seminar

Learn to process meat and fish and earn extra cash.

The Golden Treasure Skills Development Program will conduct a seminar on meat and fish processing on Sept. 8, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The one-day seminar will be held at Nestlé Bldg., 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City.

Topics to be discussed are sourcing of materials and costing. For questions, please call 952-4028.

A Growing Culture of Impunity

We are appalled that the culture of impunity among certain government officials appears to have spread to an extent exceeding that of all past administrations. This impunity seems also increasingly evident in many agencies of government.

A glaring example is that of COMELEC Chairman Benjamin Abalos who had no business in allowing himself to be entertained by officials of ZTE Corporation, a potential contractor of the Republic, particularly considering he had an important electoral exercise to administer. His indiscreet conduct and absence from his official duties could only have happened if he believed he was immune from sanctions.
We therefore reiterate our call for Chairman Abalos to resign.

Dept. of Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza needs to think very carefully about the charges leveled against him by Congressman Carlos Padilla. Like other questionable projects, the ZTE deal will be rejected by the court of public opinion and, sooner or later, evaluated and ruled on by our own independent courts of law. Sec. Mendoza should prove his worth and rescind it now.

Should he choose not to do these, we would support a full investigation by the Senate of this highly questionable project given the huge expenditure of public funds involved. We also demand that the government publicly release a copy of the contract as mandated by Article III, Sec. 7 of our Constitution which states that *"The right of the people to information on matters of public concern shall be recognized."*

The secrecy about this project, despite repeated demands by the public, is contrary to the principle avowed by this Administration for complete transparency in matters of public interest and to the provisions of Republic Act 7925 which emphasizes that *"public telecommunications services shall be provided by private enterprises."*

We are heartened by the courage of journalists and fiscalizers who bring to light the anomalous activities of public officials who believe they are protected by their position. We join them and encourage others in expressing public outrage at these questionable acts and the growing culture of political impunity.

We call on President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to heed our pleas and take immediate action to rectify blatant wrongdoings of public officials, lest she be accused of condoning them.

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7 September 2007

Petron, WWF seal pioneering strategic agreement to conserve Tubbataha Reef & the greater Sulu Sea

The country's leading oil refining and marketing company Petron Corporation recently signed a strategic agreement with the World Wide Fund (WWF) to further expand conservation efforts in the greater Sulu Sea, particularly in Tubbataha Reef-Southeast Asia's only UNESCO World Heritage Site. Petron will be committing up to P50-million over the next five years to fund programs aimed at improving livelihood, food security and sustainable natural resource management in the municipality of Cagayancillo which has jurisdiction over the reef.

"The sustainability and success of our business hinges on our actions as a responsible leader in every aspect of our business especially in the area of corporate citizenship," Chairman and CEO Nicasio I. Alcantara said. "This partnership with WWF will allow us to support livelihood programs that would improve the incomes of Cagayancillo residents and give them skills essential for the preservation of Tubbataha Reef."

The Petron-WWF partnership has two major components. One component establishes and expands marine-based livelihood opportunities for Cagayancillo residents. A second component provides the opportunity to build the skills of island residents and deserving college graduates from different academic institutions, to manage marine resources through an annual summer hands-on learning program. Additionally, this serves as a means to promote stronger ties among academic institutions, scientific and technical experts, industry partners, NGOs, and local government units.

"Petron's decision to make a meaningful investment to conserve and effectively manage Tubbataha Reef--Southeast Asia's only UNESCO marine world heritage site-represents a significant private sector commitment to the people of Palawan, and to the Philippine environment in general," WWF-Philippines Vice Chairman Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan said. "In light of the environmental challenges that face our country, private sector investments, in WWF's view, can provide the much needed impetus, and make all the difference in people's lives."

In partnership with stakeholders from Palawan and the national government, WWF has been playing an active role in managing the Tubbataha Reef over the past ten years. Its involvement includes the mobilization of resources to support the management and protection of marine biodiversity, enforcement efforts, the maintenance of high standards of biological research (e.g. corals, fish, seabirds) and thorough documentation of results - a requirement for sound management. WWF-Philippines has been able to build and innovate on approaches to remain at the cutting edge of conservation work.

"The program represents Petron's long-term pledge to help restore the health and productivity of Philippine seas and ramp up both the social and economic gains for coastal communities." Nicasio I. Alcantara added. "The preservation of Tubbataha is essential to achieve food security for thousands of fisherfolk who depend on the bounty of the Sulu Sea,"

Tubbataha reefs contribute immensely to the viability of coastal fisheries and food security. It has been scientifically-established that the currents within the Sulu Sea transport large quantities of larvae from Tubbataha and Cagayancillo, towards the east coast of mainland Palawan, where they seed hundreds of kilometers of coastal reefs in one of the country's most productive fishing grounds.

Researchers have recorded 396 species of corals - 85 per cent of all hard coral species in the entire Philippines. There are 479 species of fish from 46 families. Manta rays are frequent visitors to the reef as are barracudas and large schools of jacks. Tubbataha is also home to six species of sharks - usually found cruising around the outskirts of the reef. There are two types of sea turtles and nine species of marine mammals found in these reefs. The diversity of marine life found in Tubbataha is equal to or greater than any such reef of its size in the world.

PETRON Fuel Success. WWF *for a living planet*

Memorandum of Agreement Signing on
LIFE and LIVELIHOOD: Sustaining
Tubbataha Reefs and the Sulu Sea
20, 2007

PRESERVING A NATIONAL TREASURE
Petron Chairman and CEO Nicasio I. Alcantara (3rd from L) signed a memorandum of agreement with WWF-Philippines Chairman Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala to form a strategic partnership between Petron and WWF to preserve Tubbataha Reef-considered one of the richest marine ecosystems in the world. Also in the picture are former Petron President Khalid (extreme L) D. Al-Faddagh and WWF-Philippines Vice Chairman Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan.

Memorandum of Agreement Signing on
LIFE and LIVELIHOOD: Sustaining
Tubbataha Reefs and the Sulu Sea
June 20, 2007

STAUNCH SUPPORT
Petron Foundation Incorporated (PFI) Board of Trustees were in full force to support the strategic agreement with WWF to preserve Tubbataha Reef. In the picture are Petron officials (standing L to R) Corporate Secretary Luis Maglaya, Controller Dettie de Claro, VP-Finance Antonio Pelayo, VP-Legal Affairs Jose Laurel, VP-Corporate Planning Sulaiman Ababtain, VP-Marketing Joey Campos, VP-Supply and Operations Mon Antiporta and PFI Executive Director Malu Erni. Also in the picture are (sitting L to R) former Petron President Khalid Al-Faddagh, WWF-Philippines Chairman Augusto Jaime Zobel de Ayala, Petron Chairman Nicasio Alcantara and WWF-Philippines Vice Chairman Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan.

WWF
for a living planet
PETRON
Fuel Success.

Photos courtesy of Mr. Lory Tan

bio·di·ver·si·ty *n* : The harmonious coexistence among 479 species of fish, 79 species of algae, 10 species of seagrass, 7 species of seabirds, 9 species of whales and dolphins, 2 species of marine turtles and some 6,340 townsfolk in Tubbataha Reef, that Petron is helping to maintain. A marine park beyond compare, the Tubbataha Reef is located in the municipality of Cagayancillo, Palawan, right at the heart of Sulu Sea. It stands out as the only UNESCO World Heritage Site in the seas of Southeast Asia and is recognized as one of the country's best-managed protected areas.

Petron and WWF, the global conservation organization, are helping in the conservation and protection of this unique national treasure. Through the comprehensive program, 'Life and Livelihoods: Sustaining Tubbataha and Sulu Sea', residents of Cagayancillo are learning the necessary skills to better manage their rich coastal and marine resources. This partnership is helping conserve Tubbataha Reef to benefit thousands of residents and the generations to come. From the introduction of environment-friendly products to the preservation of marine resources, Petron continues to do its share of fueling life.

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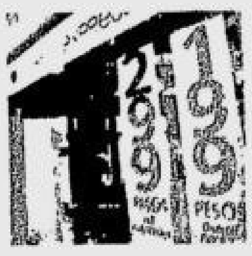

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'Sweet spot' in a backpack

Skip Yowell, one of the founders of Jansport bags, finds passion and work fulfillment outside his office

TO LIVE a good life, all that it takes, Yowell said, is for a person working hard to build a career or business to find his "sweet spot" and find the courage to stop there.

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

AT FIRST GLANCE, SKIP YOWELL LOOKS like an American still very much hung up on the 1960s, with his loose tie-dyed shirt, worn pair of jeans and beads and friendship bands around the wrist.

But to dismiss the Kansas native as just another aging hippie will be catastrophic as the 60-year-old Yowell knows more about running a successful business and living life to the full than the average CEO in a designer suit ensconced in his expensive corner office.

Yowell, after all, is one of the three original founders of Jansport, one of the world's biggest bag brands.

He and his cousin Murray and his cousin's then girlfriend Jan—after whom the bag was named—made the company grow from a ragtag operation in an uncle's two-story transmission shop into a global company that produces millions of backpacks built for the wear and tear of enjoying the outdoors.

Global ambassador

Jansport is celebrating its 40th year of production this year and although Yowell and his cofounders have sold the company to a conglomerate, he still holds the title of vice president of global public relations and the de facto global ambassador for the brand.

Life cannot be better for Yowell, who is literally still climbing mountains, the latest being Mt. Rainier in Washington.

And his kind of life is within everybody's reach, Yowell said in an interview during his recent visit to the Philippines.

All that it takes, he said, is for a person working hard to build a career or business to find his "sweet spot" and find the courage to stop there.

"There is always pressure for us to go for more and more. But do career individuals really enjoy what they are doing?" he asked.

Extra luggage

On the other hand, if a person has found his passion, he explained, there is no need to work hard for more. Everything else becomes unimportant.

"This might be the most important lesson of all: Quit climbing once you've found your sweet spot. Anything beyond that point is like lugging excess baggage," Yowell stressed.

"Many aspiring business-types strive to become the Top Dog, the Head Honcho, or the Big Cheese. There's nothing inherently wrong with that. But if in your pursuit of the corner office, you discover that your true passion lies midway up the corporate ladder, stop climbing and enjoy what you've found," he said.

In Yowell's case, for instance, he gave up on the numerous offers for him to head the company.

The pay and the perks were bigger and better, of course, but Yowell said taking on the job would have meant he would no longer have as much time to go around the world to just talk about Jansport and the reasons why it is such a "fun" brand to build.

Instead, he would be stuck in the office taking care of details of running a global company.

Besides, he has always been an outdoors person and he wants to stay there as often as possible.

Sharing

He also spends a good part of his time these days sharing what he has learned about business and life in general to any-

SWEET/B2-3

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Pinoys love to relax by watching TV

By Amy R. Remo

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

MORE FILIPINOS ARE TURNING TO free television as a main source of news, information and entertainment, a recent survey showed.

According to Synovate's Media Atlas survey, 92 percent of respondents from A, B, C and D classes have watched a free channel on television yesterday while only 41 percent have read a daily newspaper.

Only 46 percent had meanwhile watched a cable or satellite channel.

Watching television was found to be the most popular way for Filipinos to relax with 94 percent saying so, Synovate disclosed.

Other forms of relaxation include resting (89 percent), spending time with family (85 percent), listening to music (74 percent) and eating out, chatting with friends, listening to radio and shopping.

In the past seven days, only 43 percent have read a Sunday newspaper while 79 percent had listened to a radio station, according to the survey.

Synovate's first Media Atlas survey was conducted within the Metropolitan and Greater Manila areas, from June 2006 to July 2007.

It primarily measures local print media habits, spending patterns, product ownership, lifestyle, attitudes and values, especially across the expanding upper income groups.

A sample of 2,538 respondents, living in the Greater Manila Area aged 15 to 64 years old were polled using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (Cati) and face-to-face interviews.

Cati defines the media habits of upscale audience where telephone landline penetration is over 70 percent. This refers to socioeconomic classes A, B and C+.

Face-to-face approach was applied across all surveyed areas to pick up the classes broad C and D.

Synovate, however, did not provide reasons for preferences in network viewership, radio listenership and newspaper readership.

Favorite channels

Among the free channels, GMA 7 ranks highest with 89 percent from among A, B, C and D classes who said they have watched the local channel within the past seven days.

This was followed closely by ABS-CBN 2 at 83 percent, which is meanwhile the most preferred free channel among the affluent (AB classes).

QTV 11 ranks third among preferred free channels with 48 percent viewership.

For radio, 37 percent of respondents preferred listening to FM station DZMB Love Radio (90.7 Mhz), followed closely by YES FM (101.1 Mhz), which is preferred by 30 percent.

Among AM stations, 17 percent listened more to DZMM Radyo Patrol (630 Khz) while 13 percent preferred DZRH (666 Khz).

Broadsheet readership

For daily broadsheets, the INQUIRER enjoys the top spot from Mondays to Saturdays with an average issue readership (AIR) of 614,631.

This was followed closely by Manila Bulletin with an AIR of 585,806 while Star ranked third with an AIR of 488,387.

AIR is defined as the number of readers who, on average, read a copy of a particular title.

On Sundays however, Manila Bulletin was seen to have the widest reach per issue with an AIR of about 1.19 million or a reach of 17 percent of the sample polled.

INQUIRER's Sunday edition follows with an AIR of 747,927 or an 11-percent reach while Star has a 9-percent reach with an AIR of 603,894.

Among the affluent (AB) which have household incomes of more than P50,000, 44 percent preferred the INQUIRER, 38 percent read Manila Bulletin and 34 percent for Star.

INQUIRER is also the most read paper among those who have cars, credit cards and other financial investments.

Among newspaper sections, the top three most important sections were front page, according to 61 percent of respondents; entertainment, 44 percent; and sports, 39 percent.

Notably however, Filipinos spend only a short time in reading a daily newspaper with 49 percent of respondents saying they read for less than 15 minutes, given today's increasingly fast-paced lifestyle.

About 30 percent said they spend 15 to 30 minutes in a day to read a newspaper.

The survey also showed that 63 percent of these respondents read at home while 24 percent read in either their office or school.

'Sweet spot' in a backpack

JANSPORT has evolved to new lines that conform to the latest trends.

From page B2-2

body willing to lend an ear and listen with an open mind.

The value of finding one's "sweet spot" is also contained in Yowell's book cum memoirs, "The Hippie Guide to Climbing the Corporate Ladder and Other Mountains," a fun and easy read that traces Jansport's growth and Yowell's thoughts on what really constitutes success.

For Yowell, there are measures of success other than reaching the top of a corporate ladder at the expense of others.

"To successfully ascend the ladder, you and I are told we must: Schmooze or lose, use or be used and fight to stay at the top. While I don't go out of my way to criticize folks who operate within such a self-limiting mind-set, climbing the corporate ladder under those guidelines sure sounds like a downer," Yowell said.

Personal fulfillment

What Yowell puts forward as an alternative is for career and business types to take up a trade or a position that provides personal fulfillment, something "fun," so that the job is no longer just a job but something truly worthwhile doing.

"I guess it is because we at Jansport had so much fun with the business that it is now 40 years old. We have a team of people that I believe actually enjoy their work and understand how they work together better as a team," he said.

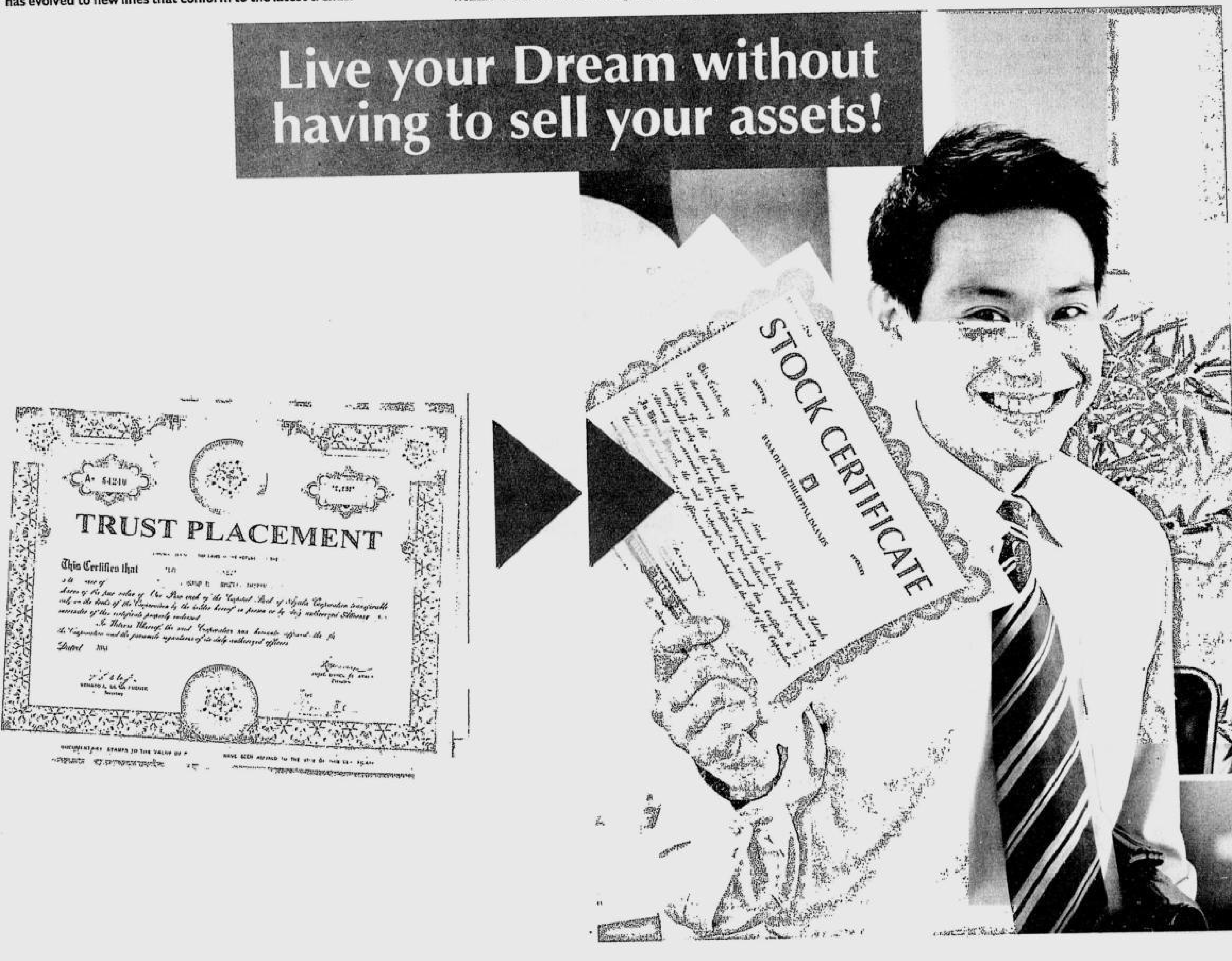
This camaraderie has allowed Jansport to evolve from its first line of patented frame packs to the new lines that conform to the latest trends.

Jansport, for instance, was first in 1996 to produce backpacks that were compatible with the ubiquitous iPod and other digital music players.

The line called the LiveWire series include the Recourse, Audio Pack and the Alt Pack equipped with Bluetooth connectivity.

Yowell said he does not know if his business philosophy came about because he grew up in the "summer of love" in the late 1960s during which "fun" and "peace" were said more often than "career."

He, however, believes that the principles that Jansport first stood for in 1967 of "peace, love and profit" are very much applicable today, 40 years later, perhaps even more so.



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NYREE at one of her successful outlets

Fruitas
Fresh from Babot's Farm

FRUITAS has become one of the fastest growing franchise businesses around.

Nyree Chan learns the best way to know consumers' wants is to man the business cart by herself

Youngest franchisee has eight outlets

ONE MIGHT SAY HER CORPORATE LIFE was nipped in the bud when Fruitas came with an opportunity for entrepreneurship.

And it didn't matter that she was young and had to get a business loan to be able to afford a franchise of one of the fastest growing franchise businesses around.

"I opened Fruitas and Buko ni Fruitas at SM Mall of Asia in May last year and I had no idea it was going to grow so fast," exclaimed Nyree Chan, one of the youngest Fruitas franchisees.

"Running a food stall business was something very new to me. After four years of working for a car distributor, a packing company and a call center, I am now blending fresh fruit shakes for people from all walks of life in the middle of the country's biggest mall," she says, smiling.

Nyree tells all this with nary a trace of regret in her voice even if it wasn't such a bed of roses during the first month of operations. For the crucial first 30 days, the export management graduate personally manned the cart.

Best experience

"The best experience for me because I saw the ins and outs of a cart business and I got an in-depth view of what people look for in terms of quality and service."

Nyree comes from a Filipino-Chinese family whose members are not afraid to get their hands dirtied.

Her father saw that Nyree has an entrepreneurial streak and her track record of being responsible scored high with him. So with a little help from him and Lester Yu, the brains behind the Fruitas success, Nyree readily took on the entrepreneurial challenge.

"It helped that my father believed in me and that Lester was always on hand to listen, guide and give advice. It raised my level of confidence and I know that as long I keep on doing the right thing and be open to other people's ideas and suggestions I will soon be able to get another Fruitas franchise in less than a few months."

True enough, her second Fruitas and Buko ni Fruitas carts rolled in at SM Manila Supermarket, followed by Buko ni Fruitas at SM Megamall Food Court in barely a year. Business was booming and there was no way to go but forward for Nyree.

Strike while the iron's hot

As the age-old business adage goes, this young woman is striking it while the iron is hot. The three franchise outlets were followed by a Juice Avenue kiosk at Glorietta 3, Buko ni Fruitas at Food Choices Glorietta 4, and two more Mango Farm carts at Robinsons Place Manila and SM Megamall Food Court.

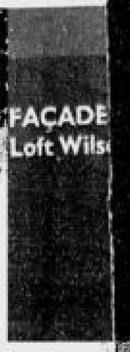
"It's fortunate that Lester's operational support for his franchisees makes a lot of things easier for us. Every detail of the business is thought of and there is a system in place which enables franchisees like me to not worry about on-time deliveries and spoilage. He even comes to your rescue when a particular outlet needs onsite inspection. Truth is you can call Lester for just about anything. That is a comforting thought for us, franchisees," Nyree says.

And even if she had seven franchise stalls, Nyree keeps it simple—she has her office inside her bedroom and has 15 staff to help her with the day-to-day operations.

Despite her busy schedule, Nyree still finds time to do what every young people her age enjoys doing. "I still love watching movies with my fiancé and going out to dinner with our friends."

And somewhere in between the blockbuster movies, Nyree's eighth Fruitas franchise is already in the works.

JACK'S Loft, The Block SM North Edsa



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of Jack's
on branch

JACK'S Loft entrance in Robinsons Galleria

ck's Loft reinvents the dessert café

WHEN YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS John Tian Seng and Erik Cua decided to put up Jack's Loft Dessert Bar in Eastwood City in 2001, they only wanted a place where they could unwind and have a nice cup of coffee and dessert, after tending to the branches of a Vietnamese noodle house.

Little did they know that, when they opened the bar, they would be reinventing the dessert café concept in the country.

"The idea of Jack's Loft originated from the house loft of our cousin-in-law Jack Johnston in Canada, where we would hang around to have good food and nice clean fun with friends," said Tian Seng, managing partner of the dessert bar. "So when we put up a restaurant in the Philippines, we decided to transplant the concept of the loft of Jack here."

Party concept

With the transplant of the tell-tale "loft" in Manila, they managed to duplicate the party concept, this time with more pomp and circumstance.

"We started with the traditional café concept with coffee and pastries, and light meals, and did not open until 6 p.m.," Tian Seng said. "But as patronage grew, we soon expanded our daily fare and operating hours."

They started with a handful of fusion food recipes, which they themselves developed; to cater initially to the younger set and the nocturnal crowd.

As its customers became more diverse in terms of age, Jack's Loft menu began to expand. It can now serve dozens of meals.

Current menu

Its current menu includes paninis (grilled Italian sandwiches), sandwiches and wraps, Indian-style butter chicken with rice, English shepherd's pie, and Hong Kong-style baked pork chop, pastas, risotti (Italian rice meals) and stir-fried rice.

For drinks, it has alcopops, liqeur, beer, fruit shakes, and its popular house blend, Jack's Ice Tea served in fish bowl.

Not to be missed is its signature Jack's cheesecake and a slew of other cakes which have made the restaurant a mecca for foodies with sweet tooth.

Designer stores

Aside from its unique fusion food and desserts, Jack's Loft is also reputed for coming up with designer stores which Tian Seng and Cua developed themselves, using the former's academic training in graphic design overseas.

Each outlet has a unique character, depending on the age group they cater to.

Its first store in Eastwood City is an imposing post-modern crimson red edifice.

In that nocturnal Libis colony, the store became a favorite haunt of yuppies and party-goers because of its relaxing interiors and comfy couches reminiscent of the house in Canada.

The second branch on Wilson Street, Greenhills has a more industrial look, while the third store at the Robinsons Galleria Mall provides diners with that "out-of-the-box" ambiance.

The other half of the outlet is Pho Hoa Vietnamese noodle restaurant, while the outer rim has a Compass Internet station for netizens and online gaming addicts.

Wi-Fi enabled

The restaurant is Wi-Fi enabled. It also has an enclosed play pen for toddlers and children, allowing their parents to have a quiet dinner.

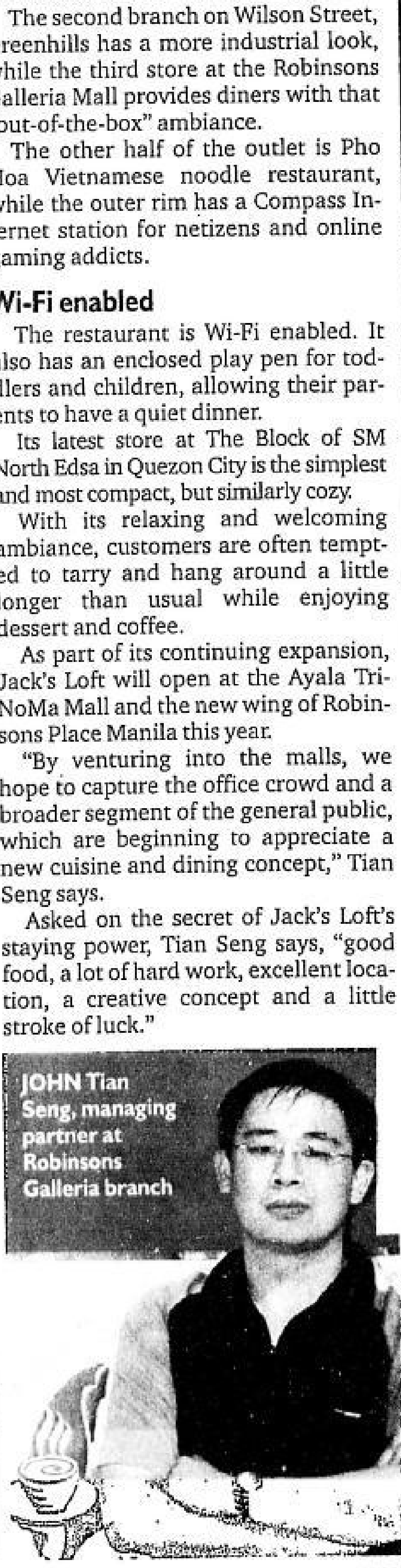
Its latest store at The Block of SM North Edsa in Quezon City is the simplest and most compact, but similarly cozy.

With its relaxing and welcoming ambiance, customers are often tempted to tarry and hang around a little longer than usual while enjoying dessert and coffee.

As part of its continuing expansion, Jack's Loft will open at the Ayala TriNoMa Mall and the new wing of Robinsons Place Manila this year.

"By venturing into the malls, we hope to capture the office crowd and a broader segment of the general public, which are beginning to appreciate a new cuisine and dining concept," Tian Seng says.

Asked on the secret of Jack's Loft's staying power, Tian Seng says, "good food, a lot of hard work, excellent location, a creative concept and a little stroke of luck."



JOHN Tian Seng, managing partner at Robinsons Galleria branch

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SM celebrates Bulacan's Singkaban Fiesta

BULACAN'S BEAUTY AND craftsmanship takes center stage as SM City Marilao joins in the celebration of the Singkaban Fiesta 2007 from Sep. 8 to 15.

The Singkaban Fiesta, which is derived from Sining at Kalinangan ng Bulacan, is a week-long celebration of Bulacan's rich cultural heritage. Literally meaning bamboo arc, it is celebrated in line with the 109th anniversary of the Philippine Republic's First Congress, which took place on Sep. 15, 1898 at the Barasoain Church in Malolos.

Highlights of this annual event have included the Indakan sa Kalye, Bulacan's own version of street dancing, the Pasiklaban Fireworks Display, and the Lakan at Lakambini ng Bulacan pageant. The event has also been a good time to showcase the products Bulacan has become known for-fireworks, plants and native delicacies like pastillas de leche, puto, and, inipit; as well as to honor outstanding Bulakenyos through its Gawad Plaridel and Dangal ng Lipi Awards.

This year's theme, "Bagong Bulakenyo: Maka-Diyos, Makatao at Makakalikasan, Mapagmahal sa Pamilya, at Tapat sa Bayan, Hinutok ng Panahon Parang Kawayan," depicts modern Bulakenyos as stalwarts of strengths and values, just like the great heroes from the province-Marcelo and Gregorio del Pilar, and Francisco Balagtas Baltazar.

Bulacan Governor Jonjon Mendoza and Vice Governor Willy Sy-Alvarado recently led the launching of the Singkaban Fiesta 2007 activities at SM City Marilao.

The mall has been the venue of many exciting Singkaban activities since 2004, and it again will be hosting key events this year. These include the Fireworks Display at the mall's parking lot A on Sep. 8; and the pre-pageant screening of Lakan at Lakambini ng Bulacan contestants on Sep. 9.

Not to be missed are the Governor Jonjon Mendoza Bonsai Open and the 1st Bulacan Suiseki Competition on Sep. 10 and 11 at the mall's Event Center. These back-to-back competitions involve suiseki, small naturally formed stones admired for their power to suggest a scene in nature, which are often accompanied by bonsai trees during exhibits.

The Provincial Health Office will conduct the 2nd Bulacan Health Expo from Sep. 12 to 14, while a PetOne Dog Grooming Seminar on Sep. 15 will be helpful to dog lovers.

SM will also be participating in this year's Singkaban Float Competition on the last day of the festival. Accompanied by street dancing or Indakan sa Kalye, this will take place at the provincial capitol in Malolos City.

TINIKLING dancers take center stage in Singkaban's famous Indakan sa Kalye.

NBDB conducts First Academic Publishing Conference in RP

TO HELP ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLedge and authorship in the academic setting, especially in the regions, the National Book Development Board (NBDB), with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), is holding an academic publishing conference titled "Developing Local Knowledge Through Academic Publishing". To be held on Sep. 10 at the Seameo-Innotech at Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, the day-long conference aims to help develop the publishing capabilities of academic institutions with university presses. Lectures on a wide array of topics will be delivered by speakers from institutions with long years of experience in the industry. Fuji Xerox Philippines Inc will also give an update on current trends in digital publishing. Simultaneous with the conference will be an exhibit of publications from academic presses to be held at the same venue. Interested parties may call the NBDB at 929-3677. Look for Asena Galang.

P1-B CORPORATE BONDS

Splash Corp recently tapped SB Capital Investment Corp, a Security Bank Corp (SBC) subsidiary, as its issue manager and underwriter for a P1-billion floating rate note facility. SBC, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp (RCBC) and Robinsons Savings Bank Corp (RSBC) served as note holders to the loan facility set to mature in 2012. Splash Corp chair and CEO Dr. Rolando B. Hortaleza (seated 4th from left) led the signing ceremony with SBC president and CEO Alberto S. Villaroza (seated 3rd from left). With them are (seated from left) Emmanual P. Manucom, Splash Corp senior vice president and CFO; Reynold Y. Gerongay, RSBC president and CFO; Villaroza; Hortaleza; Gen. Remy T. Tigulo (ret.) SB Capital Investment Corp president; Uy Chun Bing, RCBC executive vice president; (standing, from left) Rommel S. Latinazo, RCBC senior vice president; Conrado A. Gloria, SB Capital Investment Corp executive vice president; Ma. Carmencita Lopez, SBC assistant vice president, trust division; Patricia May T. Siy, SBC senior vice president; Juanito Andres A. Henson, RSBC vice president; Wilfredo S. Talastas, SBC first vice president and trust division head.

Search for outstanding Philippine CFO continues

ING BANK NV MANILA BRANCH AND the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex), the joint organizers of the search for the outstanding CFO of the Year, are calling on Philippine corporations to continue submitting nominations.

The organizers will accept entries until Sep. 15.

The CFO of the Year Award may be participated in by all local or foreign-owned, privately held or publicly listed companies operating in the Philippines and registered under the laws of the Philippines. Companies may be Philippine owned or the local subsidiary of multinational corporations operating in the Philippines.

The search for the outstanding CFO of the Year recognizes Philippine financial services leaders and their achievements. The awarding ceremony, slated for Nov. 29, is the culmination of an extensive nationwide seven-month search for the country's outstanding CFO.

The endeavor is a joint undertaking of the ING Bank Manila branch and Finex-a partnership that is backed by co-presenters and media partners.

Co-presenters are Finex Foundation, The International Association of Financial Executives Institute or Iafei, Asian Institute of Management-Governor Jose B. Fernandez Jr Centre for Banking and Finance, and the CFA Society of the Philippines. Media partners are Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, and BusinessWorld.

The principal selection criteria for the awards are based on the values of integrity, leadership, effective stewardship based on the highest standards of business and professional ethics, and specific instances of wealth creation in finance and financial services that are worthy of recognition.

More information about the CFO of the Year Award is available at www.finex.org.ph.

Novartis gears for BioCamp 2007

TOP POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS, EXperts and industry leaders in the fields of biotechnology and medical biotechnology in the country gathered Aug. 10 for the "Biotechnology Forum" held at the Best Western Astor Hotel in Makati. The forum served as an excellent venue for information sharing and exchange on the state of biotechnology development in the country, and a primer for the coming Novartis International Biotechnology Leadership Camp (BioCamp) 2007, which will be held from Oct 6 to 8 in Tokyo, Japan.

BioCamp is an annual three-day biotechnology seminar for postgraduate students with high management and leadership potential in the said field of study. The seminar offers participants a chance to gain a broader view of the biotechnology sector and its benefits from a global perspective.

Pharmaceutical company Novartis started the biotechnology camp in 2004 as a way of giving back to the societies in which Novartis operates. The company believes that, "By educating talented young people about recent trends in the biotechnology industry and by promoting regional cooperation, we aim to contribute to the advancement of biotechnology worldwide." Novartis was named as the number one most admired pharmaceutical company in 2006 by Fortune Magazine.

BioCamp 2007 will convene some 40 participants from all over the world, with one or two representatives from each country. For three days, top postgraduate students from various countries will be given the opportunity to interact with their peers and learn from biotechnology experts from the academe, the industry and government officials.

Speaking during the Biotechnology Forum, Novartis (Philippines) commercial director for general medicine Amal Kelshikar said, "(BioCamp) stimulates biotechnology in the country", referring to how the event could strengthen its development in the Philippines through a healthy exchange of innovative ideas that should extend beyond borders and spread regionally and globally as well.

Two representatives will be chosen by Novartis among masteral or post-graduate students from top universities in the country to participate in the international BioCamp 2007. According to Novartis, the selection of candidates will be based on "academic excellence, professional focus and leadership potential."

This year's forum is unique as Novartis has decided to have a mix of students in medicine or science majors and business majors as well. Cora Varona, compensation and HR services manager of Novartis, explained the addition of business majors in the camp. She said that innovative ideas on biotechnology need to materialize from incubation to commercialization stage in order for humanity to maximize its advantages. This is where the combination of these students becomes significant as they leverage on each other's talents and capabilities. At the same time, BioCamp provides an excellent opportunity for Novartis to attract best-in-class talents by demonstrating to young people the career potentials that the pharmaceutical industry and Novartis can offer.

Aside from representatives from Novartis, the Biotechnology Forum was also graced by distinguished speakers who shared some updates on biotechnology as well as their opinions on the future of biotechnology in the Philippines. Dr. Gisela Concepcion, a multi-awarded researcher and professor of the Marine Science Institute at the University of the Philippines, talked about the importance of biotechnology in the field of science and medicine; while Dennis Posadas, a consultant of UP Ayala Technology Park and author of "Rice & Chips: Technopreneurship and Innovation in Asia", shared his insights about the viability of biotechnology. Also, present in the event was Dennis Bela Ong, one of the country's representatives to BioCamp 2006 held in Singapore, who talked about his experiences during last year's event.

2007
BIOTE OLOGY
FROM left: Novartis Healthcare Philippines Inc HR associate Anne Betia; Novartis Healthcare Philippines Inc compensation and HR services manager, Cora Varona; Novartis Healthcare Philippines Inc commercial director for general medicine Amal Kelshikar; University of the Philippines researcher and professor of the Marine Science Institute Dr. Gisela Concepcion; UP Ayala Technology Park consultant Dennis Posadas; and Novartis Healthcare Philippines Inc medical scientific liaison officer (MSL) Dr. Godwin Vivar.

PWU PRESENTS 'MAYO...BISPERAS NG LIWANAG'

The Philippine Women's University recently presented to media the producers, cast and production team of the opera 'Mayo…Bisperas ng Liwanag' to mark the 60th anniversary of the University's School of Music. The media presentation was held at the Manila Manor Hotel in Malate, Manila. Shown is Dr. Helena Z Benitez, (2nd from left), PWU board chair, enjoining the public to watch the opera-inspired by National Artist Nick Joaquin's 'May Day Eve'-that links today's Filipinos back to their heritage. Also shown, from left, are Suzie Benitez, AVP, PWU Center for Culture, Arts and Music; Imelda Marcos, honorary chair of the opera committee; Fides Cuyugan-Asencio, librettist/lyricist and artistic director; Dr. Amelou Benitez Reyes and Dr. Dolores Lasan, PWU president and chancellor, respectively, and dean Harold Perfecto Galang of the School of Music, music director and conductor. Playdates are on Sep. 11 (8 p.m.) and 12 (3 p.m.) at the Cultural Center of the Philippines main theater, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. Tickets are available at Ticketworld outlets (891-9999) and at the PWU School of Music (339-2582 and 526-8421 loc 162).

BIG WIN FOR MABUHAY SATELLITE CORP

Mabuhay Satellite Corp (MSC) recently inked a deal with PT Pasifik Satellite Nusantara PSN, a major VSAT operator in Indonesia, to provide satellite service to Telkom, Indonesia's largest telephone company. Shown are, from left: Agung Sasano, head, marketing, PSN; Agus Budi Tjahjono, VP, sales and marketing, PSN; Johnson Regalado, head, sales and marketing, MSC; Adi Adiwoso, president-chair, PSN; and Erik Kurnia, head, network operations, PSN. The service will provide two 45Mbps Internet backbone to Medan and Surabaya via Agila2 and its Hawaii Teleport Tier 1 Internet service providers. The system bypasses Asian submarine cables that are prone to cable cut like what happened in the December 2006 earthquake.

Globe Broadband supports surgical forum

GLOBE BROADBAND BACKED the recently concluded 5th Surgical Forum of the Philippine Society of General Surgeons (PSGS) and provided broadband Internet access at the conference venue.

The delegates, consisting of surgeons from all over the country and residents and interns from hospitals and schools in Metro Manila, were able to search the Web and check their e-mails at the Globe lounge, which was powered by the company's fast and affordable broadband Internet service.

Globe supports PSGS as it advocates the use of information technology as a tool to aid doctors in the exercise of their profession. Globe Broadband users can get to access more content as it enables them to visit more websites and download more data, music and video via high-speed connections much faster than dial-up. Globe Broadband offers real benefits to users as it allows real-time communication and provides them a richer multimedia experience.

It provides easy access to information relevant to the medical field such as news and updates, links Filipino surgeons to international medical societies, and allows fellows to conveniently communicate with one another via e-mail or chat. It also enables e-health, helps in doctors' researches and is a useful tool for their continuing education.

Surgeons' Lounge

Shown is a participant to the PSGS 5th Surgical Forum held Aug. 2 to 4 at Edsa Shangri-La, Manila surfing the Internet via Globe Broadband.

Heny Sison shares culinary expertise at Asia Food Expo

SAN MIGUEL PURE FOODS-GREAT Food Solutions (SMPF-GSF) brings back one of the country's top culinary experts Chef Heny Sison to share her culinary expertise once more at this year's Asia Food Expo from Sep. 5 to 8 at the World Trade Center, Pasay City. The audience will surely make tasty discoveries in the cooking and baking demo on Sep. 8 at 1:30 p.m. as other guest chefs reveal the secrets behind favorite restaurant and café recipes, while whipping together a sumptuous feast at the Afex main activity area.

Nestlé champions wellness mind-set

NESTLÉ employees go through wellness workouts as well.

By Ed Tamayo
Contributor

IN 2002, THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) reported that noncommunicable or lifestyle-related diseases had become so common that these ailments account worldwide for an alarming 60 percent of all deaths and 47 percent of all diseases.

What's more, these numbers are expected to rise to 73 percent and 60 percent, respectively, by 2020. Equally worrisome, 66 percent of these deaths occur in developing countries, among people who generally are younger than those in developed countries.

In response to this worrisome trend, the WHO has endorsed a global strategy on diet, physical activity and health. The strategy seeks to reduce exposure to risks which give rise to noncommunicable diseases. At the same time, it recognizes the fact that malnutrition remains a major cause of death and illness, especially in developing countries.

The WHO strategy also states that people can remain healthy even into their 90s, through a range of health-promoting behaviors that include healthy diets, adequate and regular physical activity, and avoiding the use of tobacco.

Nestlé to the challenge

Taking up the challenge, Nestlé group chair and CEO Peter Brabeck announced in 2003 Nestlé's strategic direction to grow from a respected and trustworthy food company into a respected and trustworthy food, nutrition and wellness company.

Today, Nestlé is in the midst of this strategic transformation, strengthening its nutrition, health and wellness portfolio with stronger innovation and branding as well as improved efficiency.

Nestlé Philippines' chair and CEO Nandu Nandkishore says that, in line with this strategic transformation, Nestlé recognizes that it must actively participate in addressing the health concerns of consumers.

"We think that we must, now and in the future, partner with consumers who trust our brands to help them achieve the best possible quality of life. We can do so by promoting wellness with food and beverage as our point of reference, incorporating other elements necessary for wellness that synergize with nutrition."

Health, as defined by the WHO, is "the state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease." On the other hand, wellness is health, achieved with proper nutrition and physical activity.

In championing wellness, Nestlé director of communications Noy Dy-Liacco explains that Nestlé seeks to serve the changing needs of consumers and to help them obtain greater benefits as the company strives to make its brands and products more relevant to them.

> Nestlé is in the midst of strategic drive to transform and also strengthen its famed nutrition, health and wellness portfolio

MORE than 3,500 doctors, health workers and nutritionists joined in the Health and Nutrition summits.

A NESTLÉ rep checks a shopper's weight.

"In the process, we are transforming ourselves into The Nutrition, Health and Wellness Company from being The World Food Company," Dy-Liacco says.

He notes that Nestlé has a continuous heritage, since its founding in the 1860s, of promoting quality of life by providing good food and sound nutrition for generations of people worldwide.

Continuing campaign

Translating the global corporate thrust into local action, Nestlé Philippines launched a continuing campaign for both the general public and its employees now known as Choose Wellness, Choose Nestlé.

"We jumpstarted the Wellness campaign in March 2005 with the 1st Philippine Health and Nutrition Summit held in Manila, Tagaytay, Baguio, Cebu and Davao, rallying the support of authorities and specialists to help promote useful concepts of nutrition, health and wellness," shares Nestlé Corporate Wellness head Cora Sager.

During the summit, Nestlé launched a major initiative, a yearly search for five Outstanding Nutrition, Health and Wellness Programs in the Philippines. With its second year concluded recently, the search is a recognition program to honor organized grassroots efforts all over the country that have succeeded in meeting specific nutrition, health and wellness concerns of various constituencies.

Sustainable practices

Using an intensive selection process, the search has recognized deserving programs in different parts of the country from both the public and private sectors. The outstanding programs serve as sustainable practices that can be replicated in other localities or by other groups with similar needs.

Following the 2005 summit, Nestlé launched its Wellness Program at SM Supermarkets in May 2005 and again in more supermarkets in February 2006. Thousands of shoppers availed of free nutrition counseling with professional nutritionists.

These activities in the past two years have been so encouraging that the company decided to bring Choose Wellness, Choose Nestlé to over 800 supermarkets, wet markets and drugstores this year.

Wellness to schools

Nestlé has also taken the Wellness Program to schools, to lay down the foundation for wellness education among children. Seminars were held for 80 private grade schools in Metro Manila last year.

While the primary students are the ultimate target beneficiaries of the program, the Wellness launch for schools initially targets school administrators, members of school committees on health and nutrition, and officers of Parents-Teachers Associations. These are the decision-makers who influence the content of health curricula, the choices of food served at canteens, and the kinds of physical and other recreational activities for students.

Workshops included

In July 2006, Nestlé started sharing its Wellness Campaign with other companies, including hospitals, call centers, telecom and food companies, hotel chains, and media enterprises, by conducting day-long Wellness Workshops.

The workshops aimed to equip the representatives of these companies with the necessary know-how to better assess the health and wellness profile of their coemployees and help them design a customized program for their respective companies.

Today, Nestlé has conducted the workshop for some 60 companies, and the number is growing each day.

Internal program

Since the wellness mind-set must start at home, Nestlé has initiated and sustained an internal Wellness Program for its employees. The program consists of nutrition education training, regular physical activities, and an intensive communications program to build awareness on the different aspects of health and wellness.

"The motivation to choose a life of wellness must come from within and requires personal commitment," says Sager.

To encourage employees to choose and pursue wellness, Nestlé organized Wellness Days, where employees participated in regular nutrition counseling and a variety of physical activities that include body jam, taebo, Latin dancing and belly dancing.

To date, nearly 500 employees have personally committed themselves to the internal Wellness Program, where each participating employee is given a target weight to gain, maintain or lose in order to achieve ideal body weight.

Apart from individual weight targets, there are also group targets, where the cumulative weights of members are considered. Those who hit targets are rewarded.

Nutrition basics

Last year, the Corporate Wellness Unit gathered all canteen concessionaires of Nestlé work sites for a two-day nutrition workshop, where they were taught the basics of nutrition.

"Through the workshop, we hope to be able to influence the concessionaires to make more nutritious food available for our employees," Cora explains.

After starting the task of creating awareness on the importance of wellness among different segments of the population, Nandkishore says that Choose Wellness, Choose Nestlé now asks consumers to be proactive and make wellness their choice, as a way of life.

"We want to help consumers become more aware of the importance of nutrition and diet, and help them manage their lifestyle practices, so they can live healthier and more fulfilling lives," Nandkishore says.

"There is still a long way to go in making daily practices of wellness a part of the Filipino way of life. But Nestlé is committed to help the Filipino consumer choose a life of wellness," he says.

Ed Tamayo is the chair and CEO of ComHorizon Inc.

CHERY opens a window for the Filipinos to enjoy what the Europeans and Americans do in buying high quality products from China.

Would you like to go places in an MPV priced like an AUV? Or would you like to go to work with just a few Pesos spent for fuel but arriving in style and comfort? Or would you like to drive an SUV for the price of a sedan? If your answer is yes, then Chery might just be the right choice. The mission of Chery's Acteco engine is to achieve the optimum performance possible in a fuel-injected engine. This means peak performance with the lowest fuel consumption. To top it all, Chinese manufacturers adopt the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) method in determining the life expectancies of all spare parts. Whatever benefits they get in their research is passed on through the cars that they sell or export.

Contrary to beliefs, China-made cars are often times better than other Asian countries or even European countries because the manufacturing equipment are mostly, if not all, made in the USA or in Europe. The raw materials, particularly the metal parts, are of superior quality because China can afford to hire good metallurgists plus the employment of robotics and precision instruments.

If China could sustain their aerospace technology programs, I do not see how they could not be able to build quality vehicles.

EFFICIENCY NEED NOT BE EXPENSIVE!

12:57
Scrolling Messages
MOTOROLA

Paging service is coming back

By Frank Cimatu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—REMEMBER the pager, that black device strapped on the belt which alerts the user (sometimes embarrassingly) when he has a message?

ERICSSON
I managed to book you
on the earlier flight.
Departure is now 11:33
See you tonight. Lisa
yes
no

THE PAGING business still has a market

In the United States, pagers were alpha-numeric where only the telephone number of the sender would be reflected.

But in the Philippines, simple messages are sent back to a pager.

In typical Filipino Catholic fashion, cusswords were censored by the employee receiving the call.

People thought that pagers would last forever but the technology would be rendered obsolete by texting.

But now a sort of a paging service is coming back.

A new locator at the Baguio Export Processing Zone, the Florida-based WW Outsourcing International Services Inc., is a telephone answering service company that is more than a call center firm.

Doris Primicerio, WOIS founder, said she would be employing about 300 agents in their new location.

"Clients are waiting back home for us to start," she said.

The telephone answering service (TAS) industry has much evolved from the telephone operator setup it once was when she started in the industry in 1973 when she was 17.

"We take the calls for offices of physicians, service companies and professional companies during the times they are out of their offices. We transmit the messages to our customers via fax, e-mail, pager, cell phone or to their residence according to the pre-arranged instructions of each client," she said.

Pagers are also getting obsolete but there are still some customers, especially doctors, who use them.

"We also set appointments for our clients. We take orders, credit card information and processing," Primicerio said.

> People think texting has rendered pagers as obsolete technology. Well, they might be in for a big surprise

Courteous Communications Corp., a company Primicerio founded in Florida in 1986, is one such TAS.

For example, a patient would like to talk to his doctor during the off-hours for a medical emergency. He would call the company's number and a telephone receptionist would accept the call.

The receptionist would send the message to the doctor either through e-mail, fax, pager, cell phone or text messaging, or a combination of these methods, depending on the urgency.

This would also apply to a nurse at a hospital contacting a doctor for orders regarding patients.

Primicerio said in the WOIC, 80 percent of their clients are in the medical field. These include doctors, dentists, chiropractors and those in the home care services.

She said they also receive calls from plumbers, electricians, pool services and pest control workers, realtors, lawyers and accountants.

"We get about 350,000 calls a month," she said.

She said they would expect the same volume when the WOIS here would be fully operational.

In Florida, Primicerio said they would give speaking and writing examinations for 20 applicants and only four would pass the tests.

"But here in Baguio, I tested and interviewed 20 people and 19 passed. That's phenomenal. Your city should be proud," she said.

She said they would initially get 75 agents and then hire 225 more for three shifts for a 24/7 service. WOIS is located at the Norwegian building at the Baguio Export Processing Zone.

"We started by outsourcing agents in two countries. We found our best agents were in the Philippines. This is when we decided to open WW Outsourcing International Services Inc.," she said.

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Business Features Editor
Margie Quimpo-Espino

BUSINESS*Friday*

In Sorsogon, villagers still sell seashells by the shore

Text and photos by Joanna Los Baños
Inquirer Southern Luzon

GUBAT, SORSOGON—ARRIVING AT RIZAL beach in Gubat town, 19 kilometers from Sorsogon City, one would marvel at the sight of the long cove of powdery white sand and the spectacular view of the Pacific Ocean.

Along the shore, women carrying *bilao* (round native trays) filled with different items made of shells would be seen walking, hawking their wares to any visitor they may chance upon.

For these women, the sight of visitors at the beach makes them smile for it means business is at hand.

Most people consider going to the beach a treat—something they want to do yet rarely get to undertake due to constraints in time and resources.

Sellers earn as much as P2,000

But these women get to spend almost everyday, especially weekends, at the beach, selling shells.

The women do not always make a sale. During the off-peak months, from July to February, profits are lean.

IN SORSOGON/B3-2

SEASHELL chandeliers

Toyota takes automotive lead with local production of Vios

Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation, the biggest automotive company in the country, unveiled the all-new version of the best-selling passenger car, the Vios.

TMP is confident that the introduction of this new model will surpass the heritage of the previous generation Vios, fortifying Toyota's leadership in the passenger car segment and in overall sales.

"We mark the Line-off Ceremony as another significant milestone in the history of Toyota Motor Philippines as we launch our newest model, the all-new Vios," said Dr. Ty, "This best-selling local passenger car shall now be manufactured in this plant to global Toyota quality standards."

"With the completely-knocked-down Vios, we are strengthening our local production and taking the next big step in the development of the Philippine automotive industry," Dr. Ty explained.

"The new Vios is now ready to take on a more established role, not only in terms of its sales and product aspects, but also in terms of Toyota's overall contribution in society," said TMP president Ito.

The Vios is now produced as a CKD model, reinforcing Toyota'srole of creating more jobs and encouraging more investments. With this significant development, Toyota's plant will be producing one of its major volume models.

"As the number one vehicle company in the country, Toyota is committed to meet the dynamic needs of our customers. At the same time, we are proud to be a continuing partner of the Philippine Government in the task of building this great nation," declared Dr. Ty.

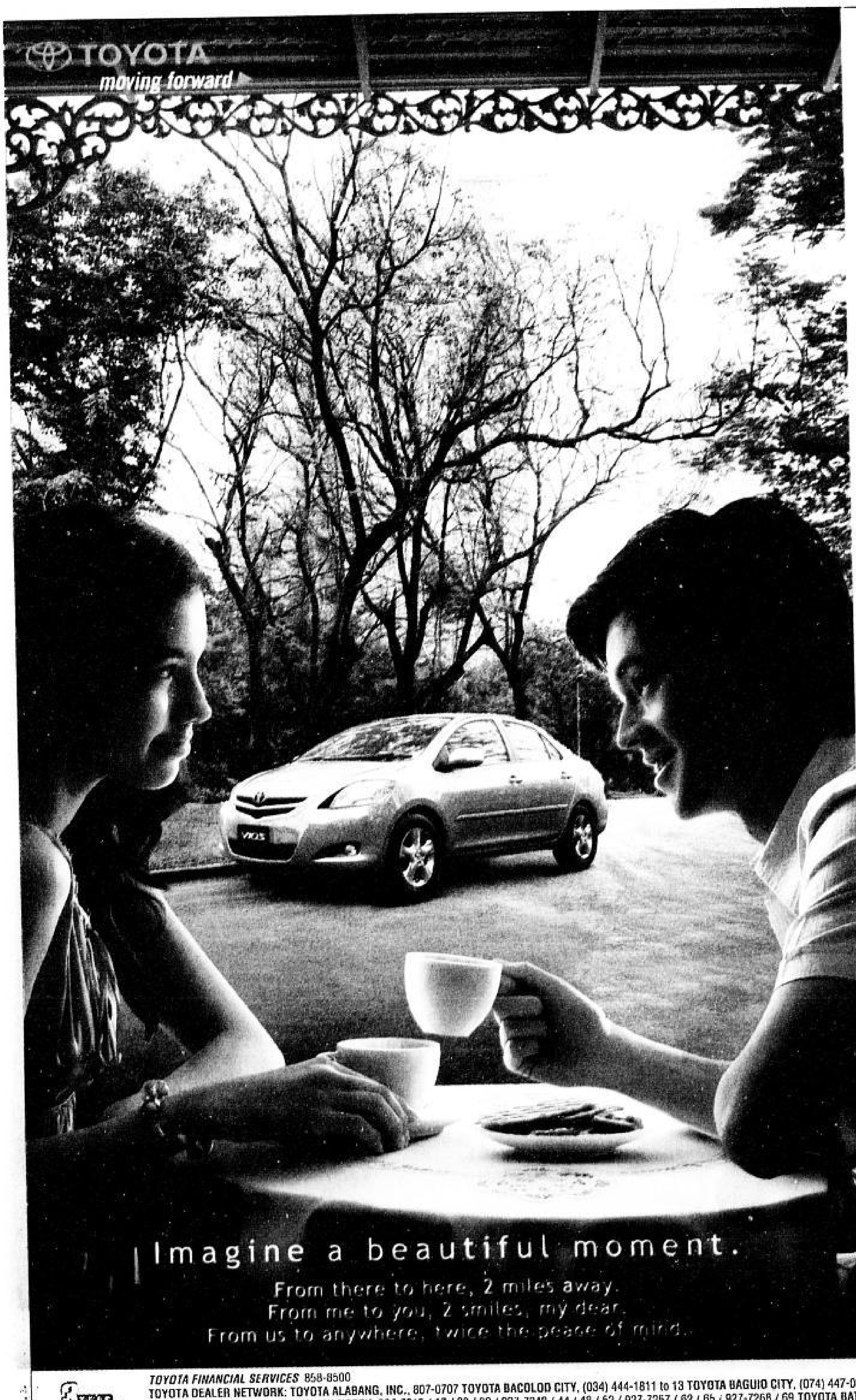
Since 1988, the Toyota Group has brought in over P20 billion in investments, with the Vios localization project accounting for P1 billion. In terms of revenue generation, the Toyota Group has remitted over P70 billion in taxes and customs duties to the national and local governments since the company started operating.

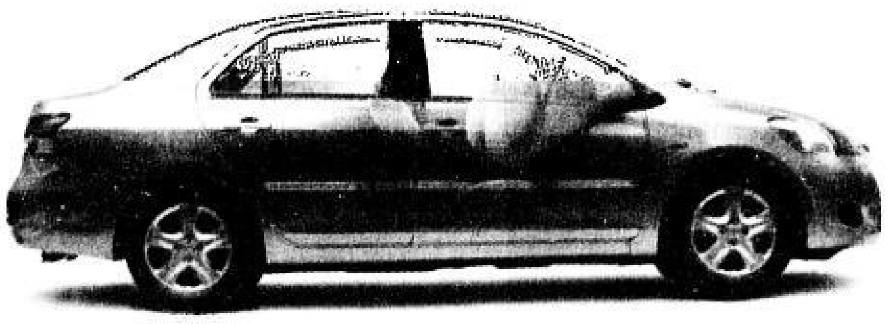
In 2006, the Toyota Group accounted for 27% of all Philippine automotive exports with a total of US$542 million. Furthermore, the Group employs more than 12,000 team members throughout the country, including its network of dealers and suppliers.

The Toyota Special Economic Zone in Santa Rosa, Laguna is now the hub of a state-of-the-art manufacturing and distribution enterprise, employing world-class systems and staffed by highly skilled Team Members. Today, Toyota is providing its customers with locally-built cars such as the Innova, the Corolla Altis, the All-New Vios and services whose quality is equal to that available anywhere else around the globe. These completely knocked-down (CKD) products, combined with the other models, make Toyota the automaker offering the widest line-up with 12 products to fit the various needs of its customers.

Toyota's commitment to be a driving force in Philippine business and society will always be moving forward. Other than the sales figures, Toyota is always aiming to provide products and services for the customers and conduct programs which make every vehicle purchase and ownership more affordable, convenient, and an altogether satisfying experience.

45 years
Metrobank





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Recyclers earn ₱50,000 from trash

A project led by SM turns people into entrepreneurs

THE FAIR promotes the environmental advantages of recycling and proper waste disposal

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A wide array of garbage collected by mothers, office workers, drivers and small entrepreneurs fetched more than P50,000 from recycling companies in the recently held Waste Market Fair here.

These people submitted 599 kg of electronic wastes and PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottles, 1,600 kg of paper and carton, 21 pieces of lead acid batteries and 112 pieces of ink and toner cartridges in the fair.

SM City Pampanga, the host of the Aug. 25 event, reported the sales based on records of recycling companies like the YGARC which bought the empty cartridges; Trust International Paper Co. (Tipco), paper and carton; Semi Recycling, old computers and PET bottles; and Philippine Recyclers, used lead acid batteries.

The waste market fair was a project of the SM Supermalls, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippine Business for the Environment, and the city government of San Fernando.

"[The fair] makes it possible for one to transact business with recycling companies and exchange recyclable items for cash while promoting the environmental advantages of recycling and proper waste disposal," the partners said in a statement here.

They said the next fair, to be held at the SM City Clark parking lot on Sept. 8, would buy used items such as cartons, newspapers, notebooks and bond papers, ink and toner cartridges, electronic wastes such old central processing units, keyboards, computer monitors and other electronic appliances, lead batteries for cars, trucks and rechargeable lamps, PET bottles and other plastic products, and aluminum and tin cans.

At the same time, the DENR in Central Luzon continued to promote the 3Rs—or the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste—amid what it called "worsening garbage problem" in the region despite the passage of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (Republic Act No. 9003) in 2000.

The law requires the mandatory segregation of solid wastes at the source prior to collection.

It also states that the mixing of source-separated recyclable material with other solid waste in any vehicle, box, container or receptacle used in solid waste collection or disposal is prohibited and punishable of up to P500,000 fine, plus a maximum 10 percent of the violator's net annual income during the previous year.

Regidor de Leon, DENR regional director, said if every person generates half a kilogram of garbage a day, the region's eight million residents could draw as much as 4,000 tons of trash daily or 1.44 million tons yearly.

De Leon said the 3Rs were "practical and doable" efforts in easing the garbage problem.

In Central Luzon, he said local governments collect 70 percent of the garbage generated by households and business establishments.

The rest end up in canals, vacant lots, street corners, market places, creeks and rivers. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

In Sorsogon, villagers still sell seashells ...

From page B3-1

"When it is off-peak season, sometimes there are days when we really have no sales," said Cecilia Estadilla, 43, one of the women selling shell products. "*Maswerte na pag may bumili* (you'd be lucky if anyone buys from you)."

Earning nothing on most days, however, does not stop the women from going back to the beach.

"I hope someone can help us," added Aurora Firanda, 56, another woman selling shells. "*Minsan wala talaga benta* (there are days when we don't make a sale)."

But during peak season, especially in summer, selling shell products becomes a different story.

The shell makers said they earn as much as P2,000 a day.

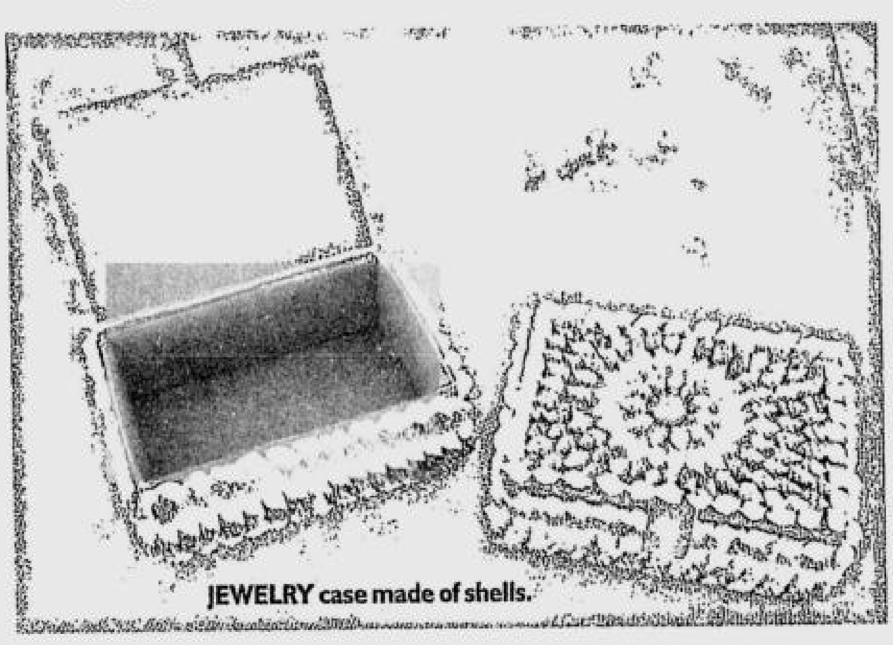

JEWELRY case made of shells.

TABLE decorations

The women all agree that what they earn may just be enough to put food on their table. What remains of the money will be set aside for their children who go to school.

Even if these women do not belong to any organization of shell makers, they said they do not compete with each other.

"We support each other here and we are happy," said Firanda.

Family thing

Everyone in the family is involved in this small business.

While the men in their households till the farms or haul fish from the sea, the women help in making the shell products.

"Even our daughters help us make accessories and other products made of shells," said Imelda Dio, 48, who has seven children.

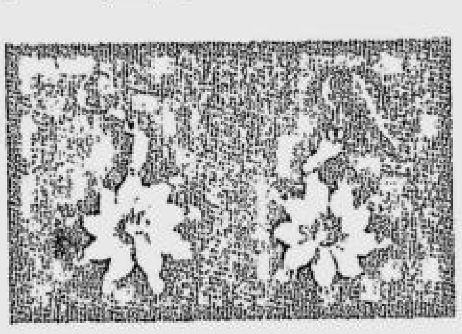
She has been making shell products since she was six years old.

"But sometimes those who make these accessories acquire eye problems since making the products is strenuous to the eyes," Dio said.

Marian Ferreras, 12, is the youngest among the women selling shells.

Ferreras, who is a freshman at the Gubat National High School, said she goes to the beach every weekend to sell shell products her aunt makes.

The money I earn becomes my school allowance, she said, adding that if she happens to earn extra, she gives it to her family.



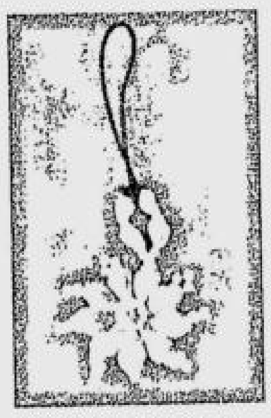
Most of the women here said they spent P1,000 to P10,000 to start their shell business.

They also said it took them several months to get back their investment.

Some of the shells that they process are gathered from the shoreline. Others were brought by shell suppliers from neighboring towns, who bring different kinds of shell.

The women buy the shells per pint, which costs from P15 to P300, depending on the variety.

Lenny Fabidane, 40, who has been making shell products for 18 years, said it would take her 25 minutes to finish small accessories, and about three hours to make complicated and big items like chandeliers.


FLOWER-SHAPED cell phone accessory

Products

Even without formal education on fashion, the local women design the accessories themselves.

Among the fashion accessories they make are earrings, necklace, bracelets and anklets. Each costs anywhere from P5 to P450, depending on the materials used.

The women also sell accessories made of plastic beads.

Aside from the plain shell key chains, they also fashion chains in the form of flowers, pigs, turtles and other animals.

They also sell shell rosaries that cost P10, and chandeliers at P25 to P1,200, depending on the size.

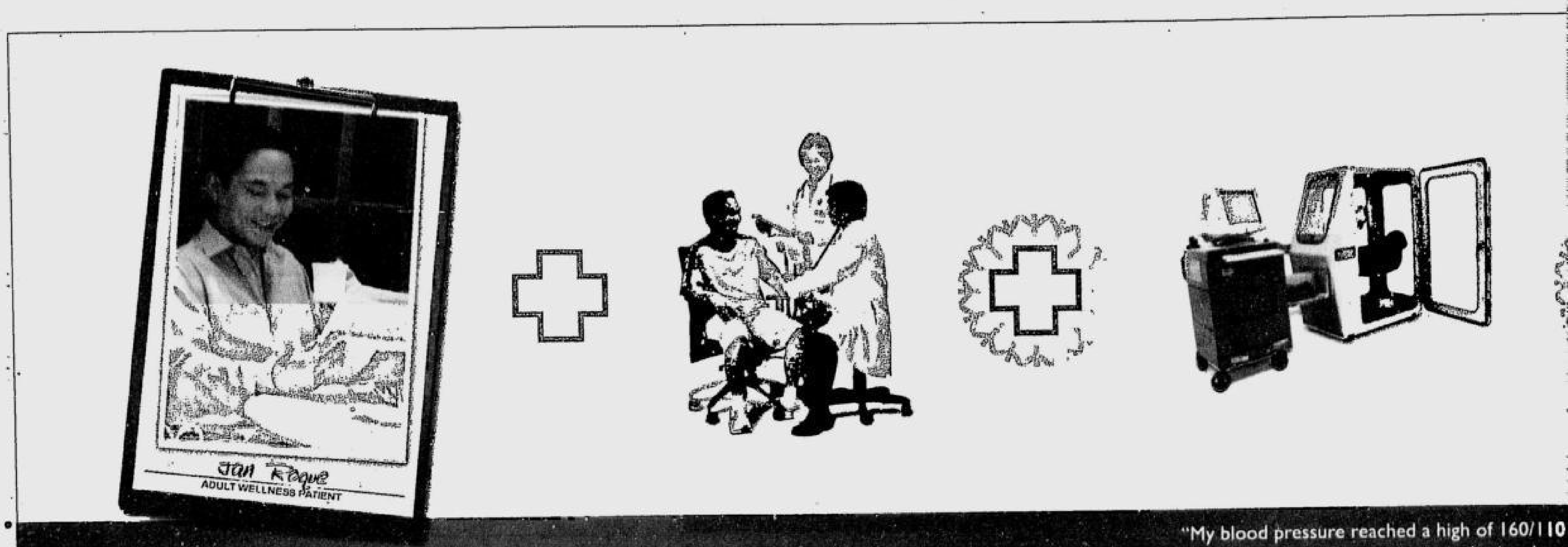
"The bigger the chandelier, the more expensive," Fabidane said.

Other items that they make out of shells are jewelry cases, cellular phone accessories and table decorations.

Ditas Dolot, senior trade and development specialist of the Department of Trade and Industry in Sorsogon province, said she is encouraging the shell makers to register with their office.

She said, under the DTI, the shell makers can undergo product development training to further develop their skills.

"What we are doing now in DTI is incorporating shells, making it accessories in the abaca handicraft since Gubat is one of the handicraft-producing towns in the province," Dolot said. "Abaca is also the focus of Gubat since it is under the one town, one product [program] of the DTI."



Jan Roque on Health Partnership at The Medical City Adult Wellness Center

"My blood pressure reached a high of 160/110
The Medical City. During my consultation, I rea
would be taking care of me during and after th
in a safe place. My wife was with me the whole

DHL seeks more YES people

(Young Entrepreneurs for Sustainability)

By Riza T. Olchondra

IN BUSINESS, HOW DO YOU KNOW you've delivered?

Entrepreneurs typically measure performance in terms of financial profits, but a new breed called social entrepreneurs apparently care more about the impact of their enterprise on society and the community.

DHL Express Philippines, the local presence of the Deutsche Post subsidiary, recently selected its top social entrepreneur through the DHL Young Entrepreneurs for Sustainability (DHL YES) Awards.

The award seeks to recognize and support young community leaders as part of its thrust for social responsibility.

DHL defined the social entrepreneur as an individual who conceptualizes, innovates and implements programs to help improve the lives of his or her countrymen in line with the millennium development goals.

At the awarding ceremony at the Ayala Museum in Makati City on Aug. 17, DHL Express Philippines country manager Larry Llamzon honored the finalists for the inaugural search. They are:

Dexter "Brix" Briones, 33, is president of Power Memory Franchising Inc.

He is one of the people responsible for implementing new methods of enhancing one's memory that cater to both students and professionals.

The business is located in Pasig City, Metro Manila. The four-year-old venture aims to develop practical memory training skills and techniques to help people efficiently process information.

It was once a purely profit-oriented business built around the franchising model, but Briones soon found that the techniques it teaches could help students learn faster and gain confidence.

Briones shared that the company approached the Department of Education (DepEd) and proposed an arrangement where Power Memory would be given time slots during school hours to teach students memory-enhancing techniques or assist teachers to integrate such techniques in their existing lesson plans.

"We were referred to some classes in Caloocan City where the students had difficulty coping with their lessons," Briones said. "It was very challenging but we have seen a significant improvement in the students' retention and level of confidence."

You're qualified if you innovate, conceptualize and implement programs to help improve the lives of the people

DHL YES Awards nominees Briones, Diaz and Atanacio

Briones said his aim is to replicate the success of the program in more public schools, to help improve the quality of its graduates.

"These children will be our future workers, our future leaders. Teaching them how to improve their memory not only improves their performance, it gives them confidence. This will help them in future endeavors. It is good that we are also turning a profit through the franchising, but it is even better from our perspective that we are using the profits to be able to help students in the public school system," he said.

Emerson Atanacio, 33, is the founder of the National College of Science and Technology

NCST is a school that provides industry-specific training and work for young people from low-income households. The school is located in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

When he was 23 years old, Atanacio, together with his friends and elder brother, pooled their resources to found a school that would give quality education for less fortunate families. Thus, the beginning of NCST.

Atanacio's nine-year-old enterprise teaches young people from low-income families through a self-help program using the Dual Training System.

Under the system, students get theoretical and practical training according to industry needs. They are also allowed to get freelance jobs using the skills they learned.

The employment serves as additional practical training and the income it gives covers installments for their school fees.

DHL Express country manager Larry Llamzon with Illac Diaz

Aside from industry training, the students have a computer laboratory to familiarize them with the use of computers and the Internet, with a student-computer ratio of 1:1.

In 2005, the school offered its first institutionally developed courses, the Certificate in Manufacturing Technology and the Diploma in Production Technology course, both under the Dual Training Systems Department.

Today, the school has 143 full-time and 30 part-time employees. Gaining the respect and confidence of the academic community in Cavite for his entrepreneurial work, Atanacio was elected as the first president of the Association of Public and Private Technical Education and Training Providers of Cavite Inc.

"We find that there are many bright and promising young people, but they find it hard to get an education and jobs, because they had little money to go to school or their training was too generalistic to apply to industries within their community, or both. Our school helps to change that, so they get industry-specific learning and they can pay their way through school by applying what they have learned. This changed the lives of many out-of-school youths for the better, and we are happy to be part of this positive change," Atanacio said.

Illac Angelo Diaz, 35, won the YES awards with Pier One, his business in Intramuros, Manila.

Diaz was declared the winner for his landmark Pier One Seafarer's Dormitory. The place offers a clean, safe and affordable transient housing for maritime overseas Filipino workers and their families within Manila.

They also receive placement assistance, temporary employment while processing their papers, skills upgrading, and even sex education to guard against HIV/AIDS.

When he was doing his thesis for his Masters in Entrepreneurship from the Asian Institute of Management, Diaz and his classmates were assigned to walk around Manila Bay to think of a business that could be developed near the bay area.

During this so-called "serendipity walk," Diaz found a long line of hopeful seafarers from different parts of the country crowding around the manning agencies in the TM Kalaw area, waiting to be given the chance to set sail.

He realized that they had no housing and employment alternatives and some have resorted to living in shanties in dangerous places.

Recognizing the dire need of this labor segment and their contribution to the economy through remittances, Diaz set up a 40-bed dormitory in 2000. Today, Pier One has 1,500 beds with branches in Intramuros, Recto and Ermita. The profits are invested back into the business for upgrading and expanding facilities.

Pier One has given way to build-for-stay and work-for-stay systems under Diaz' CentroMigrante project. Under the project, tenants can help construct units from prefabricated parts in exchange for a period of free occupancy or take on minor jobs to get an allowance.

CentroMigrante also provides skills seminars on career development, personal finance, remittances management and small businesses, and coordinates with 400-plus manning agencies to establish an onsite job board to help with job searches.

The prototype system was able to reduce average waiting time for jobs from seven to three months.

Diaz said about 90,000 seafarers have been served by the project.

"Most of the outreach and CSR (corporate social responsibility) projects now existing use the cash-burn system, getting donations and then spending until the money runs out. What social entrepreneurs prove with their work is that there is a way to serve and also turn a profit, which will again be used to serve the community," he said.

More YES people needed

Llamzon, meanwhile, expressed confidence that social entrepreneurship will gain ground in the Philippines, supported by efforts to increase awareness, including the DHL YES awards.

"It has been said that we need an army of social entrepreneurs to really make an impact, but we are getting there," he said.

"That is why we are embarking on this search, and why we are rooting for Illac to win in the regional competition. We want to raise the profile of social entrepreneurship in the country, to motivate more people to effect change. Businesses that turn huge profits get a lot of accolades, but really, the social entrepreneurs should be lauded more because they are the ones who are making more positive changes," he added.

Spa for ₱299, anyone?

From page B3-4

offering clean, private rooms and very good services. In other spas, customers have to pay extra for a private room, whereas in Big Apple, every customer has his own.

They also invest on excellent training program for the staff to make sure that customers get quality services. By doing this, the spa was able to lower its prices, making them really affordable to their target market.

The most popular services are the Manhattan Anti-Stress, which is designed to make the customer feel calm and relaxed using mineral oil, and the Wall Street Energy, a dry massage which uses pressure to energize the body. Each massage costs P299.

Other services are Massages of the World such as the Pinoy Hilot, Balinese Massage, and Hawaiian Lomi-Lomi. They also offer foot spa, facial, scalp treatment, manicure and pedicure.

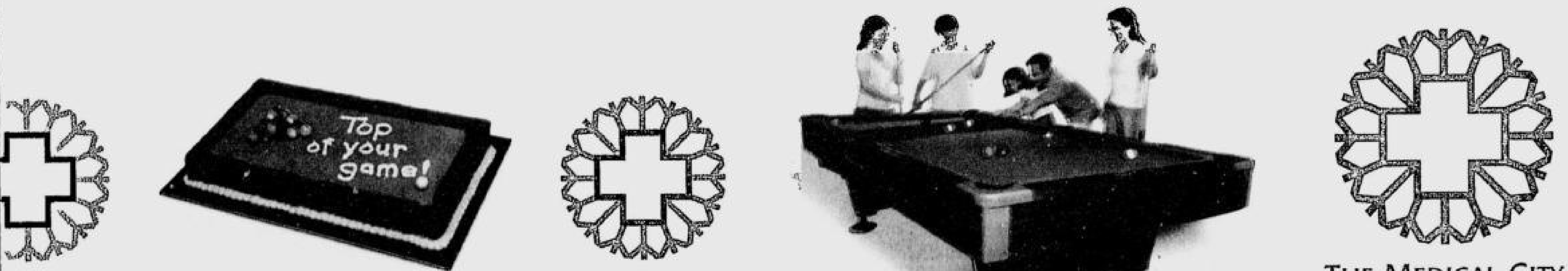
They also choose locations that are convenient and very visible to the people. One of their branches is inside the Gateway mall near the LRT, a strategy that enables everyone to see the outlet every time they take the train. Other branches are in Market! Market!, SM Mall of Asia, and SM Lipa.

Big Apple also believes in helping people by giving them jobs that do not require a college degree. "We hire people based on attitude. As long as they believe in the concept. Even if you don't know how to massage, we'll put you into training; in two weeks time, you'll already know how to massage. There are so many people out there looking for jobs, and that's part of our vision, to help the Filipino people by providing them with jobs," adds Nisce.

As more and more people discover the benefits of a budget spa, Big Apple aims to go global in a few years time. Other budget spa may sprout and imitate what Big Apple has started, but Big Apple is confident that it can still be on top. Knowing that they have tapped a market that also needs to indulge in their desire to relax and pamper themselves without straining their budget, Big Apple believes that they have carved their own niche.

Big Apple Express Spa outlets are soon to open in The Fort, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Subic, and in Robinsons Galleria. Big Apple Express Spa is open for franchising.

BUSINESS PARTNERS: Victor Fernando, Mark Orbos, Roselin Gaw-Pagunsan and Karlo Nisce.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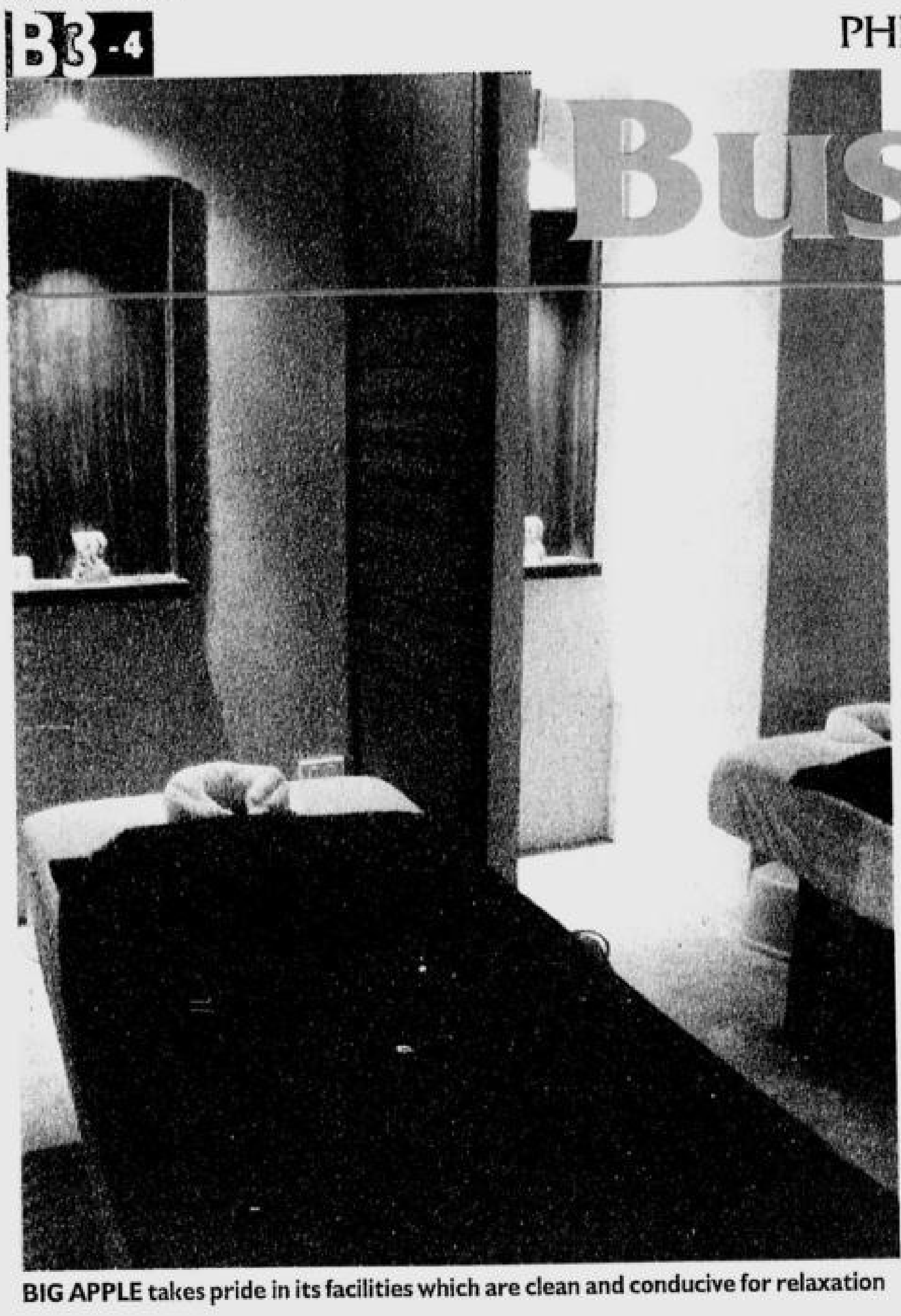


BIG APPLE takes pride in its facilities which are clean and conducive for relaxation

By Princess Daisy C. Ominga

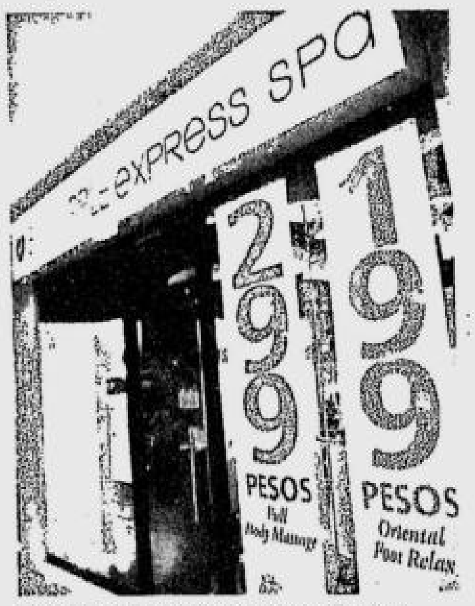
MOST OF THE TIME, THE WORDS "spa" and "cheap" seem unlikely to be used in the same sentence. As spa has always been associated with the elite, the regular Juans find it hard to imagine spending their hard-earned money on such a luxury.

Big Ápple Express Spa aims to debunk that notion. Established to be the spa for the "masa," it deviates from what people usually get from other spas, like sauna, shower, and steam room, and instead focuses on the essentials of a good spa: cleanliness, competent staff, and privacy.

"We forego all those facilities (sauna, shower, steam room) in order to give more value to the customers through affordable prices, but we also make sure to maintain all the essential elements of a spa," says Karlo Nisce, one of the owners of Big Apple Express Spa.

Established in 2005 by business partners Nisce, Victor Fernando, Roselin Gaw-Pagunsan and Mark Orbos, who are all massage enthusiasts, Big Apple Express Spa is the group's answer to all the high-end spas dominating the market. But instead of competing head-on with the others, they saw the opportunity to create a niche by catering to what they believe are the ones who really get physically tired: the average, lower class workers.

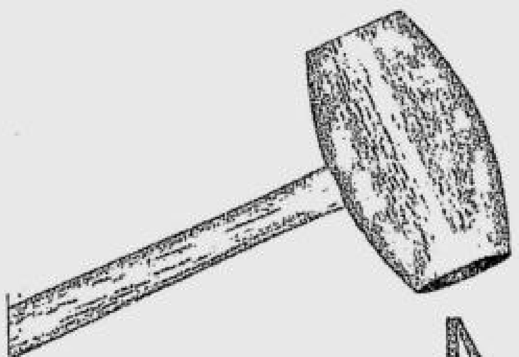
Upon finding out through a study that most spa-goers only avail themselves of the massage but skip the other amenities, Nisce and his business partners realized that customers can do away without other facilities and just have the massage. But what they lack in the usual perks offered by other spas, they compensate with the things that matter the most to customers.



THE FAÇADE is the best marketing strategy.

Big Apple Express Spa prides itself in

SPA/ B3-3



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Pay your premiums & enjoy perks and pleasure

A survey once revealed that in times of financial difficulties, "insurance premiums" rank last in the "To Pay" list.

Out of five monthly must-payables, most consumers or household decision-makers would prefer to fork out hard-earned money for food, tuition fees, utility bills (electricity, water, cable and telephone), and credit card bills over insurance premiums. Worse, if the tight purse strings become tighter, insurance premiums would find its way into the "Won't Pay Now, Will Think About it Later" category and would eventually be bumped off the list.

This survey finding is disheartening because the policy owners seem to overlook the reason why they purchased their insurance policies in the first place – that is to secure their future. Further, paying insurance premiums seems to be among the least priorities because it is perceived to be a "burden" and a continuing obligation for some.

To change this notion and make paying insurance premiums a more rewarding endeavor for its policyholders, Insular Life, the first and the largest Filipino life insurance company, re-launched I Love Rewards, a unique feature of its Extra Special Policyholders (ESP) Program.

Insular Life's I Love Rewards enables its ESPs to earn rewards points for paying their insurance premiums in advance. Advance premium payments refer to payments made 1 day to a maximum of 30 days prior to premium due date, regardless of mode of payment (quarterly, semi-annual or annual). The rewards points earned may be accumulated or instantly redeemed for shopping, hotel, dining and lifestyle gift certificates or donation opportunity.

Among the rewards line-up, the ESP can choose whether to augment his monthly budget for basic needs (groceries, medicines, clothes, etc), reward himself (spa treatments, choice appliances, gadgets, etc), or feed his soul (donation to CRIBS Philippines).

This early payment incentive, one of the few innovative solutions Insular Life provides to its policyholders, is convenient to those who plan their purchases or expenses in advance. It is like accomplishing your "To Pay or To Do" lists ahead and being rewarded for it at the same time.

More so, one will no longer think of paying insurance premiums as a burden, but as a rewarding experience. Ultimately, one will regard insurance not as an unappealing product but a stylish commodity.

I Love Rewards makes Insular Life the only life insurance company that offers rewards points alongside insurance protection, and at the same time gives flexible rewards options, thus the tagline "Enjoy the rewards that come with entrusting your protection to us. Live Life. Love Rewards."

In its recently concluded Premyo Kada Premium ESP Redemption Promo, some ESPs chose to redeem their rewards points to donate to institutions such as CRIBS Philippines, Habitat for Humanity and Haribon.

Insular Life takes pride in providing a full circle of innovative customer experiences to its ESPs through the ESP Program. Aside from I Love Rewards, ESPs enjoy the free annual medical check-up and complimentary breakfast, as well as newsletters. Moreover, all ESPs are given the Prestige Card that offers discounts and special perks from select merchant partners and exclusive invitation to events sponsored by the Company.

ESPs can inquire or claim their rewards by calling 771-1818 locals 1318 to 1320, Mondays to Fridays, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Simply inform the Marketing Staff of the rewards item of your choice (based on the Official Rewards Catalogue) and they will advise you regarding the delivery of your redemption request.

LIFESTYLE

BEAUTY

Simonin says . . .

Philippe Simonin, famous French inventor of a non-invasive anti-aging cosmetic technique, is in town to team up with Vicki Belo

By Chelo Banal-Formoso

BEAUTY IS AND WILL ALWAYS be a booming industry. Even people with lower income can afford beauty products. In a disastrous economic situation, there is always a part of their budget reserved

SIMONIN/C2

Philippe Simonin

45 years

Metrobank

45 years of quality leadership in banking with Metrobank

Metrobank Card Corporation

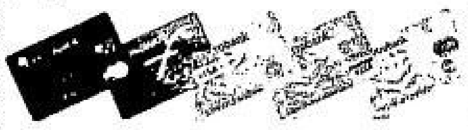
A joint venture of Metrobank and ANZ

Having been founded in 1962, the Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company (Metrobank) has, indeed, gone through great triumphs and travails in order to operate as a universal bank for 45 years. As the current year marks Metrobank's 45th anniversary of excellent banking leadership, the Metrobank Card Corporation is also pleased to partake in this grand celebration of leadership as one of Metrobank's most trusted subsidiaries.

Metrobank Card Corporation (MCC) has always been known to continually deliver new and exciting things for its cardholders. Worldwide acceptance, higher credit limits, and rewards programs are just a fraction of the wonderful features that the cards have to offer. Over the past years, MCC aggressively developed and brought to market innovative products, services, and various programs that provide value to its customers while attracting the attention of potential customers.

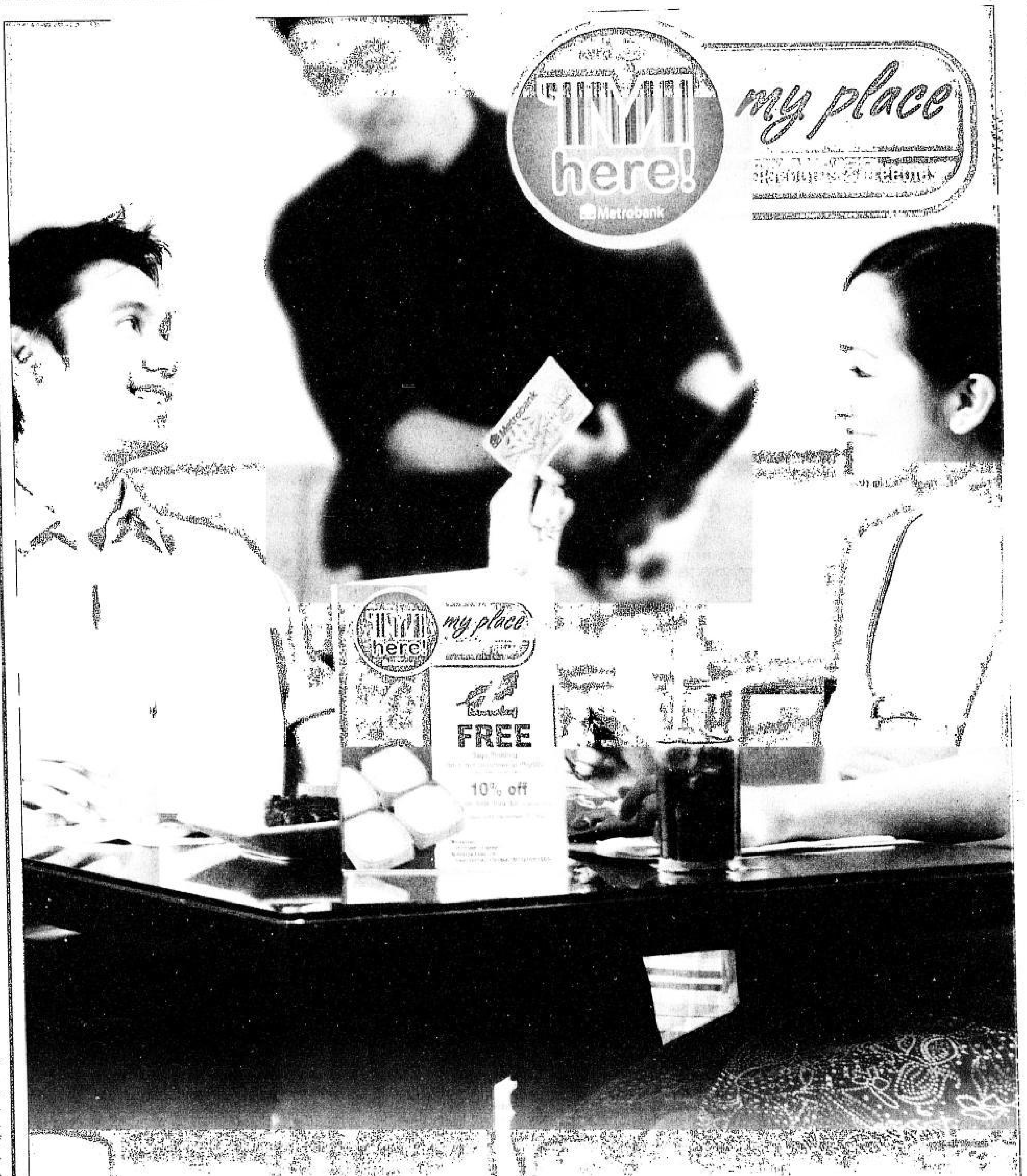
The success of Femme Visa and Cash2Go can be attributed to MCC's targeting the customer's specific needs and wants. Its sustainability is due to MCC's customer service improvement and steadfast commitment to improving capabilities in information management.

Already achieving success in past years through strategic partnerships, MCC currently realizes excellent performance by working with key partners. However, one of the most important components to the success of MCC cannot be overlooked- the unfaltering dedication and energy of its employees.



Tony Maughan, the new incumbent president of MCC, further shares his vision of the future: "While some people would see the target of being the number one card company in the region as a very visionary aspiration, I would say that it's a very real aspiration for us. If we pull up, challenge the boundaries, I don't see what can stop us."

Great things are definitely taking shape at Metrobank Card Corporation as they continue to uphold their core values of living the Filipino "Bayanihan Spirit". Metrobank is committed to creating and providing the best possible value for their core constituents and striving to deliver a wide array of premium-value products and services with distinctive quality. Through the outstanding leadership of the MCC's mother company Metrobank, great skillfulness and quality performance is unquestionably parallel.



Enjoy life's pleasures simply by using your Metrobank Credit Card.
Whether you're dining at your favorite restaurant or relishing a family bonding moment,
Metrobank Credit Card rewards you with privileges that are nothing less than heavenly.
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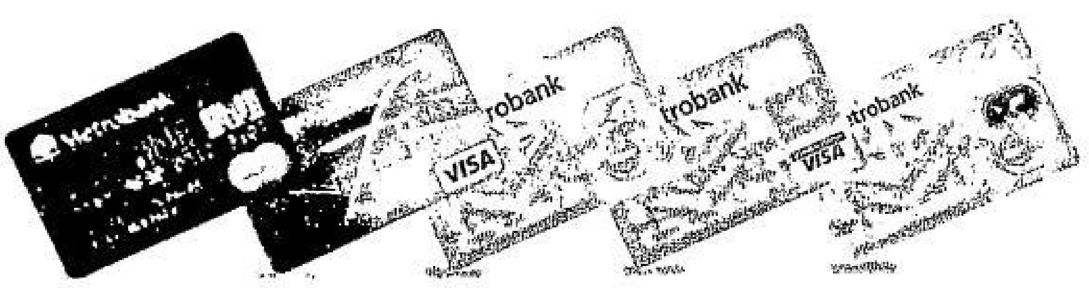

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BEAUTY

Simonin says . . .

Philippe Simonin, famous French inventor of a non-invasive anti-aging cosmetic technique, is in town to team up with Vicki Belo

BEAUTY IS AND WILL ALWAYS be a booming industry. Even people with lower income can afford beauty products. In a disastrous economic situation, there is always a part of their budget reserved

Philippe Simonin

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Having been founded in 1962, the Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company (Metrobank) has, indeed, gone through great triumphs and travails in order to operate as a universal bank for 45 years. As the current year marks Metrobank's 45th anniversary of excellent banking leadership, the Metrobank Card Corporation is also pleased to partake in this grand celebration of leadership as one of Metrobank's most trusted subsidiaries.

Metrobank Card Corporation (MCC) has always been known to continually deliver new and exciting things for its cardholders. Worldwide acceptance, higher credit limits and rewards programs are just a fraction of the wonderful features that the cards have to offer. Over the past years, MCC aggressively developed and brought to market innovative products, services and various programs that provide value to its customers while attracting the attention of potential customers

The success of Femme Visa and Cash2Go can be attributed to MCC's targeting the customer's specific needs and wants. Its sustainability is due to MCC's customer service improvement and steadfast commitment to improving capabilities in information management.

Already achieving success in past years through strategic partnerships, MCC currently realizes excellent performance by working with key partners. However, one of the most important components to the success of MCC cannot be overlooked- the unfaltering dedication and energy of its employees

Tony Maughan, the new incumbent president of MCC, further shares his vision of the future "While some people would see the target of being the number one card company in the region as a very visionary aspiration, I would say that it's a very real aspiration for us. If we pull up, challenge the boundaries, I don't see what can stop us."

Great things are definitely taking shape at Metrobank Card Corporation as they continue to uphold their core values of living the Filipino "Bayanihan Spirit" Metrobank is committed to creating and providing the best possible value for their core constituents and striving to deliver a wide array of premium-value products and services with distinctive quality. Through the outstanding leadership of the MCC's mother company Metrobank, great skillfulness and quality performance is unquestionably parallel.

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Simonin says . . .

From page C1

for beauty."

So says world-renowned anti-aging doctor Philippe Simonin, whose high-profile clients include French Prime Minister Francois Fillon and actress Audrey Tatou ("Amelie" and "Da Vinci Code"). Two years ago, he went all over Asia to survey the beauty market for possibilities, courtesy of the luxury skincare brand La Prairie. "Unfortunately, they did not take me to Manila," he laments.

Let it be. The Philippines tends to be overlooked by most business scouts for obvious economic reasons. Thanks however to gung-ho entrepreneurs like Vicki Belo, the best products and services eventually find their way to these shores.

And so Simonin is now in town to train the resident doctors and aestheticians of the Belo Medical Group on the Simonin Method of dermatological care.

"Instead of training with him in Paris and coming home to then train my staff," says Belo, "I flew him in to give our doctors first-hand training."

The Belo clinic for men on the fifth level of Rustan's in Makati is being renamed Belo Medical Group-Dr. Philippe Simonin Method. (The men's clinic should not be confused with the cosmetic and derma clinic for women also in Rustan's that is doing very well, thank you very much.)

Full range

The reinvented clinic offers the entire range of the Simonin dermatological procedures, from the Electro-Ridopuncture Process (ERP) for wrinkles and cell regeneration to Anti-Aging Transdermal System (ATS) for anti-aging to CRTS for hair loss.

Belo sought out Simonin in Paris as part of her research and development for her thriving medical group.

"It was hard to get on Dr. Simonin's waiting list. When he finally was able to treat me on one of my trips, it was at 11 p.m., but it was worth it. I was just blown away," she recalls.

Simonin says he sees around 28 clients a day. He works from 8 a.m. to midnight. He spends two or three days of the week at his clinic in Paris and two or three days at the Philippe Simonin Beauty Institute in Geneva.

"There is no surgery, no injection and no burning of the skin," assures Simonin. He uses ERP, which allows the treatment of the cutaneous senescense and skin imperfections like acne and wrinkles.

ATS involves applying electrodes made from 18-carat gold to the skin. Through low-tension currents, Simonin makes the cells believe they must heal a scar that we call a wrinkle. As if it is wounded, the epidermis deeply regenerates, and the wrinkles are filled out until they disappear. The treatment is done quickly—30 minutes tops—without pain and without any side effects for patients.

Unique technique

Belo is quick to admit that the Simonin process is so unlike her existing techniques, most of which she has pioneered in the Philippines and which rely on state-of-the-art equipment.

"There are four methods listed in the French cosmetology and dermatological encyclopedia," says Belo. "One is plastic surgery. Another is fillers and Botox. Another is chemical peeling and lasers. And then there is the Simonin process."

Simonin counts the most faithful beauty-seekers among his clients. After the initial treatments, they show up at his clinic once a month.

At the media lunch tendered by Belo at her fabulous Dasmariñas home for the French anti-aging expert, slides were shown of patients whose skin hardly changed from 20 years ago when they first started seeing Simonin. "Maintenance is very important," he stresses.

For other people, however, wrinkles are the least of their worries. For patients whose faces are infected with acne or disfigured by scars, there is hope. Slides taken after a few treatments show Simonin's patients having clear or near-smooth skin again through the Simonin process.

"I can treat scars that are red, brown, indented or domed," says Simonin. "But body scars are harder to treat than facial scars."

Simonin first came up with the ERP process in 1983 while working as a researcher. He later did biopsies at the Rotschild Foundation which proved the nonexistence of vascular or nervous risks. These biopsies were then submitted to Centre National de la Recherché. The result of his rigorous and relentless work earned him a place in the French dermatological encyclopedia.

It was not until 2001, however, that Simonin perfected and registered a patent for a technique that produced the same results as ERP without having to insert subcutaneous needles into the furrow of the wrinkles.

In his battle against skin aging, Simonin has also produced, through an internationally renowned Swiss laboratory, a line of cosmetic products that safeguards against visible signs of aging.

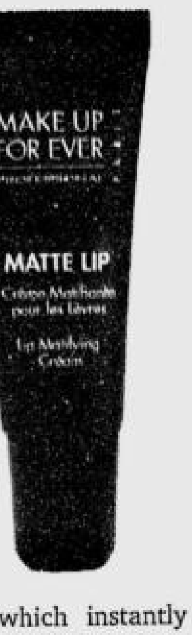
NEW TEAM in town. French anti-aging doctor Philippe Simonin and beauty expert Vicki Belo will be offering Simonin's non-invasive French dermatological procedures at Belo Medical Group clinic in Rustan's Makati.

Best-kept beauty secrets

MAKE UP FOR EVER'S BEST KEPT SECRETS line of products offers unique, innovative and highly effective beauty products that deliver specific benefits while also allowing the makeup artist great ease in achieving special, creative results.

Make Up For Ever's Glossy Full Vinyl Effect Plumping Lip Gloss places the focus on the lips by creating glossy, pouty lips. Meanwhile, its Matte Lip does the opposite by creating subtle, yet absolutely dramatic lips.

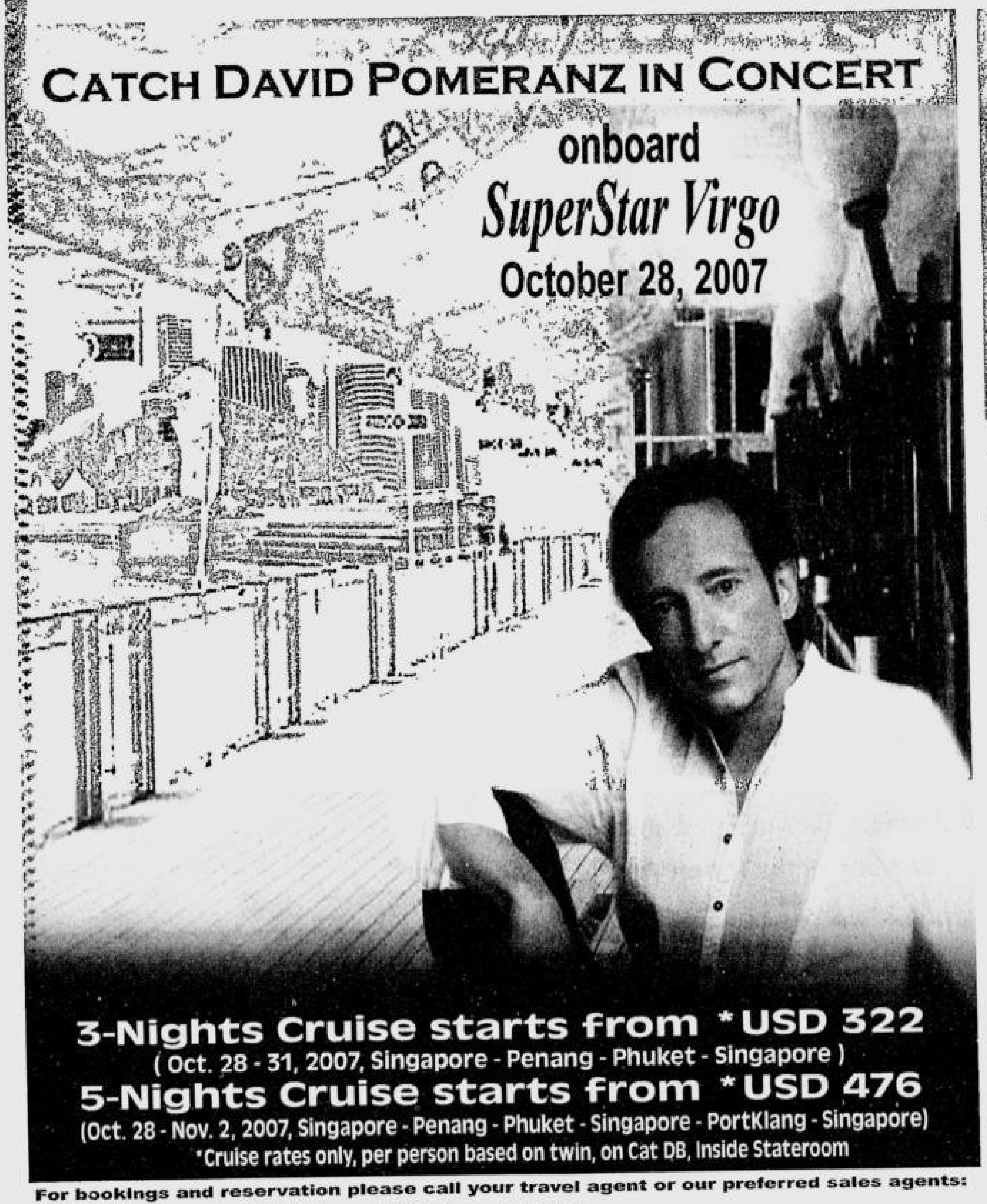
Make Up For Ever's Glossy Full is an ultra-brilliant lip gloss that creates a high-gloss effect with one application and a vinyl effect with two or three. It is colorless and is designed to be applied over any lipstick. It will not affect the color or intensity of the lipstick. Despite its high-gloss effect, Glossy Full is not sticky. It keeps the lipstick in place longer while providing moisture and protection from external irritants. It also has the added benefit of a mild plumping effect. The result is soft, supple, youthful lips.



Make Up For Ever's Matte Lip, meanwhile, is a rich cream that contains ultrafine cellulose powders, which instantly mattifies any lipstick. Matte Lip's unique formulation does not alter the color of the lipstick and provides the added benefit of giving it longer wear. And although the lips feel powdery, Matte Lip contains a cocktail of glycerine and botanical extracts that soothes the lips and prevents drying.

Other products in Make Up For Ever's Best Kept Secrets range are: All Mat Matifying Primer, Stop Shining Matifying Gel, Concealer Pencil Mist & Fix Makeup Fixer Spray, Eye Seal Waterproof Liquid Converter, Lip Plus Lipstick Fixer and Lip Care Pencil.

Call Make Up For Ever Shangri-La at 6385702 and SM The Block at 4420368 for a complimentary one-on-one consultation with makeup artists certified by Make Up For Ever Paris.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BOBBIE Diamond Collection

Colorful diamonds

THERE'S A GREAT SOLUTION FOR getting that peachy sheen on your nails—one without a stiff price tag and not requiring a visit to an expensive salon. From Bobbie Nail Cosmetics, an industry leader for over 20 years, comes the Bobbie Diamond Collection.

For common problems like hang nails, dry nails and tough cuticles, there's Bobbie Diamond Collection's Fortifying Oil, an energy booster that restores nails to tiptop shape. This unique formula has Vitamin F, Jojoba Oil, Sweet Almond Extract and Borage Oil to keep the nail area more elastic, flexible, moisturized, and youthful. This oil-rich formula also provides needed hydration to keep nails from becoming brittle so they look their best with or without polish.

Weak, brittle and soft nails will find the answer in Nail Growth Solution. It has amino-acid bearers and calcium panthothenate that aid in nail generation, and Vitamin E and soy protein that act as antioxidants to nourish nails and protect them against everyday wear and tear.

Bobbie Diamond's Nail Whitener is the quick solution to embarrassing yellow, discolored nails. It has green tea extract that provides renewed strength to weak nails and Bluish White that smoothens out the nail surface with a nice milky coat that helps conceal discoloration, bringing back nails' healthy look.

Frail nails can count on Bobbie Diamond's Nail Strengthener. It has Benzo/Methionin complex, which is conceived for weak and fragile nails, to help nails become less brittle. Acrylic Resins ensures hardening of nails and better resistance to film.

Meanwhile, for yellow nails, dull colors and nail polish that peels off easily, try 2-in-1 Quick Dry, a quick-dry formulation of base and/or topcoat that protects and highlights the luster of nail color. It has a protective film that makes nail enamel last longer.

Whether you like your nails natural or prefer them polished with the latest and most fashionable colors, nail care is a very important barometer of your general well-being and attitude toward life. It is therefore in your best interest to keep them looking terrific. Have them cared for and protected through the complete line of Bobbie Diamond Collection Treatment products, which are available at Watson's outlets.

cut & keep

Shine-free beauty

Text and makeup by Barbi Chan
Contributor

> Matte makeup is ideal for oily complexions and for people with combination skin

MATTE MAKEUP is the ticket to an impeccable, shine-free face.

What is matte makeup? Matte means the absence of glow. Matte translates to denser (heavier) coverage and a drier finish. It is the opposite of shimmer.

It also gives the most coverage and is much more long-lasting compared to other textures of makeup. It is ideal for oily complexions and for people with combination skin.

Word of advice, though: If your skin tends to be on the dry side, matte cosmetics should be avoided. This would further emphasize the dryness and would make you look like a dried prune.

But as with any makeup, it is always best to start with a good skin. No amount of makeup can hide badly cared-for skin. If you decide to use matte makeup, it is very important to exfoliate your skin regularly to prevent the matte finish from appearing flaky.

Once-a-week exfoliation is good for normal skin, and three times a week is ideal for oily skin. Do not over-exfoliate, though, since this might strip away the skin's natural oils.

Always wear a light moisturizer first before applying makeup. Be sure to let the skin absorb the lotion before applying your makeup. Blot away any excess product using a facial tissue or face blotter.

When choosing the foundation for your matte makeup, look for "oil-free," "anti-shine" or "oil control" in the label.

For the base, you can use powder foundation, liquid foundation (do not forget to choose an oil-free formula to get the same matte result) or, if you are the type who doesn't like wearing foundation but wants to have that matte complexion, you can try some makeup base that doubles as a mattifier.

BEFORE

AFTER

Good buys

One product I've tried that works like magic is ModelCo's Skin Perfect Pore Minimiser. It conceals pores and really reduces the shine. It is dual-use, too. You can apply it under makeup as a mattifying base, or over makeup for that quick retouch.

If you are prone to blemishes, this product is perfect, too, because it has anti-inflammatory properties that soothe the skin. It's very easy to apply and can last the whole day.

If you want more coverage, sun protection and longer-lasting wear (say, up to 12 hours) then I recommend Lancome's Maquicake UV Perfect Forever. I've tried it at a wedding and I've had good feedback about it. It is fade-proof and you don't even need to retouch. Just blot your face and it's as good as new.

I also love the fact that it has SPF 20 for additional skin protection. Those with normal to combination skin can use the Maquiliquid (liquid type of Maquicake). For those with oily skin, stick to the powder foundation.

Maybelline's Clear Smooth Shine Free Face Powder is best for those who don't really need that much coverage but want to hide some skin imperfections. It's perfect for everyday use because, while it's very natural-looking, it covers flawlessly. Gone are the days when matte powders looked and felt chalky and cakey. Most powders nowadays offer silky and velvety finishes but with the same matte effect.

Another product that is new in the Philippine market is Youngblood Mineral Powder Foundation. A lot of people are hesitant to use mineral makeup for fear of allergies. On the contrary, mineral makeup is hypoallergenic and is actually very gentle on the skin. The Youngblood product is a loose powder and foundation in one. You can even use it as a concealer. The best part of it is it also mattifies the skin.

Sophisticated look

Rule of thumb when applying a matte blusher: Avoid the apple of the cheeks and keep the color further back and on—but not under—your cheekbones, for a more sophisticated look. Powder blushes are usually the ones with matte finish.

This rule also applies when choosing your base. Just look for the word matte on the label. Try MAC Powder Blush.

When applying matte lipstick, outline lips with a lip pencil first and carefully blend the edges with a rubber tip smudging tool. Use a lip brush when applying matte lipstick (preferably of the same shade as your lip liner). NARS in Pigalle is the most natural-looking matte lipstick I've tried.

Some matte lipsticks can feel dry. To counteract this, smooth on some lip balm first, leave on for a few seconds then blot away before applying the lipstick.

E-mail author at bc_maybelline_ny@yahoo.com

GOINGS ON

Lolo & Lola dance contest

SEPT. 9 IS GRANDPARENTS DAY. To celebrate the event, a ballroom dancing competition for *lolos* and *lolas* will be held at the Carousel Court of Festival Supermall under the auspices of the DanceSport Council of the Philippines. Grandparents will also get freebies. Festival Supermall is in Filinvest Corporate City Alabang, Muntinlupa City (tels. 8503514 and 8503515, www.festivalsupermall.com.ph).

TRAVEL MART. The 18th Philippine Travel Mart will be held at SM Megamall, SM Megatrade Hall, Sept. 7-9, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. The fair will showcase the booths of SM Investment Corporation's pioneer eco-tourist development, Hamilo Coast; and the SMX Convention Center, the first privately-run exhibition and convention center.

CONCERT. Christian pianist Enoch Fernando will perform for Church of God Makati's building fund project, on Sept. 9, 7 p.m., at the Philam Life Theater, UN Avenue-Manila. Call 8105366.

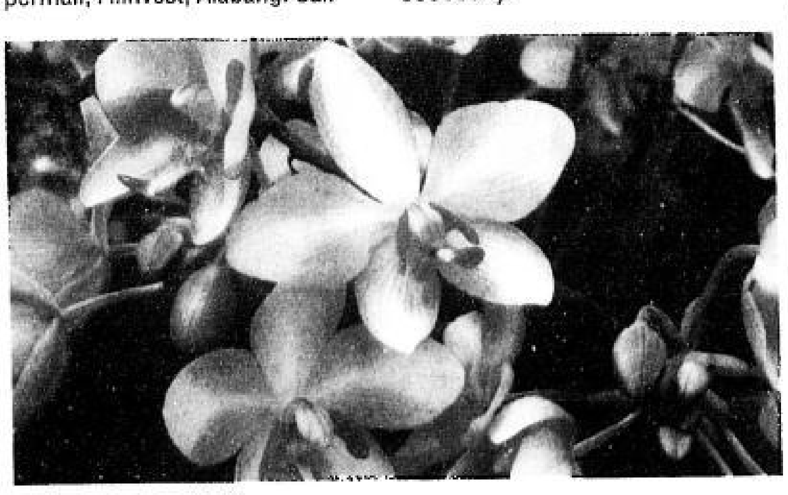
HOLIDAY TREAT. Starmall Edsa holds a three-day mall-wide sale on Sept. 14, 15, and 16. Avail of the 50-percent discount on selected items. "Sipag at Tiyaga Libreng Pangkabuhayan" demonstrations are held every Saturday of September. Join Starmall's RAP-pening Contest held every Thursday of the month. Call 718-1886/3462.

JOB FAIR. The Philtrade exhibits with the Department of Labor and Employment and the PESO of Muntinlupa City hold a job fair, Sept. 29-30 at the Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang. Call 8286394, 8286395, 09208766505 or 0927-7239798 for details.

SEMINARS. CFS Creative Training and Management will hold the following seminars: "Effective Supervisory Skills" (Sept. 8, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.); Conducting Effective Employee Orientation (Oct. 13, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.); Understanding Performance Management Framework (Oct. 20, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.); Effective Business Correspondence (Sept. 14, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.); Developing Excellent Business Communication Skills (Sept. 22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). Call 8697960, 8232358, 8234825.

POSTGRADUATE COURSE. The Department of Pediatrics, Philippine General Hospital, University of the Philippines and Child Foundation Inc. will hold its 2007 postgraduate course "Subspecialty Alerts in General Pediatrics," Sept. 12-13, at the Century Park Hotel. Call 5240892 or 5218450 loc. 2101 or 2107.

THREE LUCKY WOMEN. Ma. Syvel Vargas, Joan Buhay and Neonita Maristela are the winners in Sun Cellular's U Chat, U Win promo. Vargas, a 24-year-old sales and marketing associate, and Buhay, a 26-year-old product information representative, got an iPod Nano each. Building administrator Neonita Maristela, 49, is the winner of a trip to Boracay. All three are users of Sun iMessenger that allows subscribers to send and receive unlimited messages with their AOL, ICQ, MSN, and Yahoo! Subscribers just need an existing IM account (http://www.suncellular.com.ph, http://sim.ph/web, tel. 3958000).



GARDEN SHOW
The Philippine Orchid Society 61st mid-year Orchid and Garden Show is ongoing until Sept. 10 at the Orchidarium Park, Quezon City Complex, Diliman. Call 0917-8485468, 9294425 or e-mail secretariat@philorchidsociety.org for details.

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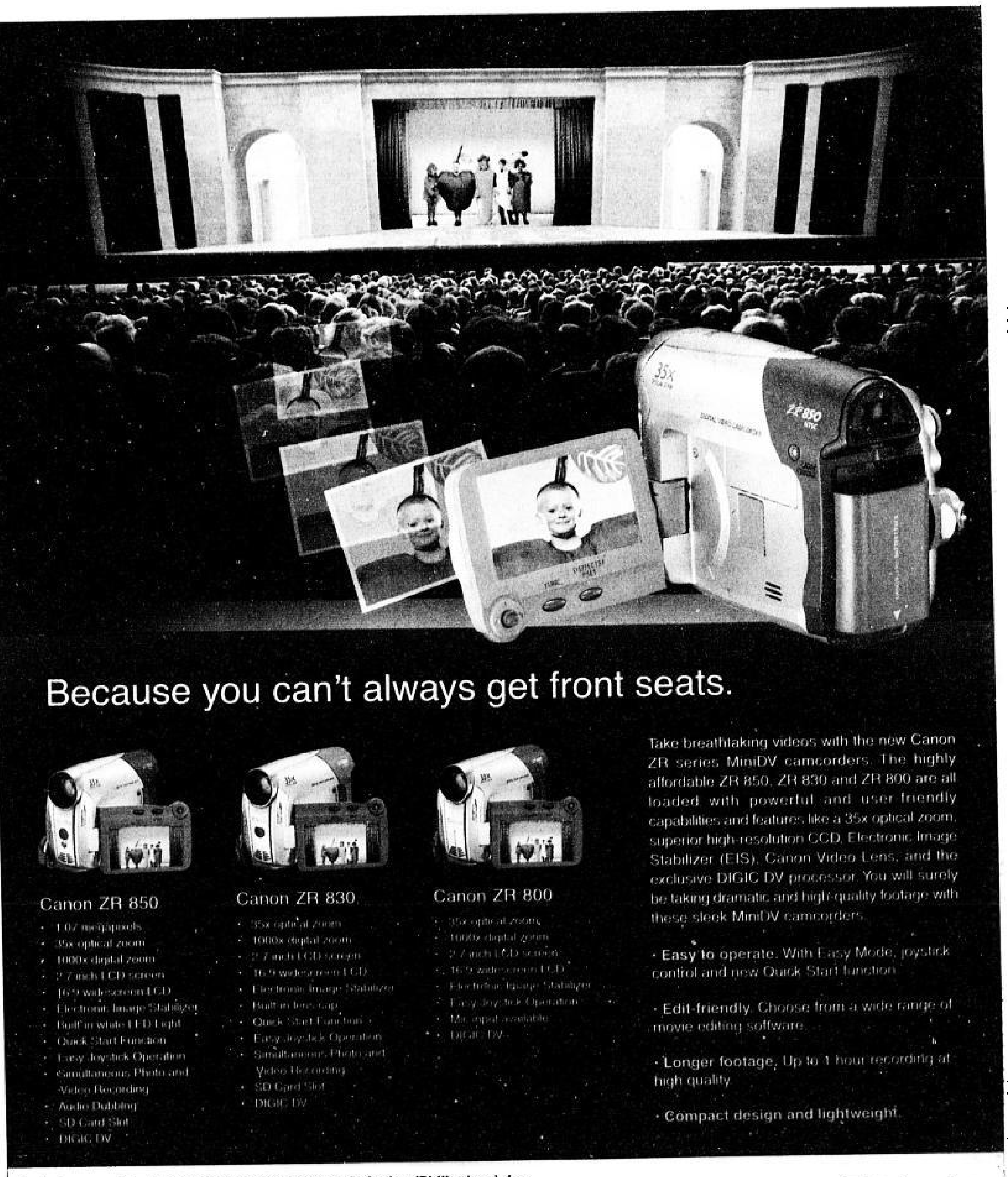

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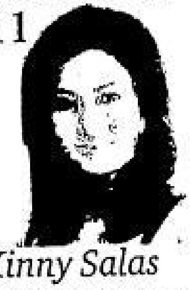
Beauty adjustments as the season changes

MAKEOVER 911



Kinny Salas

WE HAD JUST LEFT spring and summer, and we are now entering autumn (September-November); then we shall proceed to winter (December-February).

As the weather gets cooler, clothing and makeup will become more formal and come in richer, more dramatic tones and textures. I am useless in the fashion department but I can help you beauty-wise.

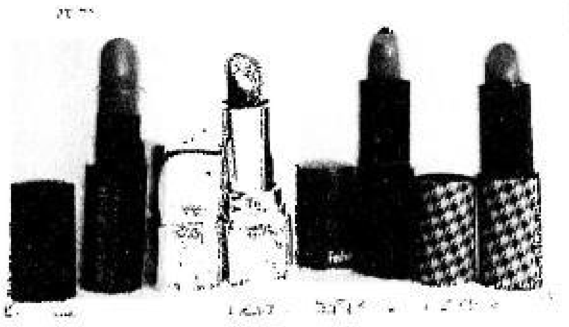
Autumn-winter is actually my favorite season because there is a marked difference between day-work makeup and evening dates; it's sort of like having a secret identity where you are all natural or professional by day and then transforming yourself to whatever you want to be after-hours.

We Asians are actually in our element as our natural coloring is made for these richer textures and deeper colors.

Gone are the shimmery pastels and lip gloss often suited for only the very young, exceptionally beautiful or Caucasians, while we Orientals look puffy or washed out. We can now wear the darker lipsticks in reds that do not come in sheer form and it makes all the difference to our look when worn even with makeup-free skin.

Read on to clue yourself on the rules and remedies:

1. Love the nude/neutral makeup, but don't be too comfortable with red lipstick. Work on your eye area instead. Go heavier on the eyeliner and define the brows. In fact, you can even go paler with your choice of lipstick as long as you put proper emphasis on the eyes. Try eyelash extensions/weaves which will last you two to three months and will even cut your eye makeup time by some 10 minutes.



NUDE LIPS. Make Up For Ever transparent 443, Guerlain Envie de Beige, Fashion 21 Color Mood in Innocent Plum and Smashbox in Pale Pout

LA MER Treatment Creme Foundation SPF 15, Make Up For Ever Liquid Lift foundation, Beauticontrol Secret Agent Foundation and Wrinkle Deflector, and Fanny Serrano Crème Mousse Foundation

For nondrying nude lipstick, you may try Make Up For Ever in 443, Guerlain Envie de Beige, Revlon Nude Velvet, Smashbox Pale Pout, and Fashion 21 Colour Mood in Innocent Plum (Pink Beige for only P150).

Eyeliner/mascara options for those who do not want extensions: Mistine Pro Long Mascara, Avon Perfect Wear mascara, Lancome Flextencils and Maybelline XXLash.

For eyeliner, I use a skinny eyeliner brush and quality eye shadow for staying power and smear prevention. Shu Uemura browns, gray or black eye shadows are best for this; it can also fill in eyebrows.

Those who like pencils will love the glide and rich pigment of NARS, Shiseido, Shu Uemura and Lancome pencils.

2. Regarding foundation adjustment, those who have oily skin are jumping for joy by now as they get to keep the matte, fresh-finish longer. But those in their late 20s with normal to dry skin and lines are dismayed by the show of age as their foundation refuses to blend in and settles into fine lines, emphasizing the wrinkles.

Anti-aging

Use foundation with anti-aging treatment like La Mer Treatment Creme Foundation SPF 15 (P5,500). La Mer creams have miracle ingredients so you are actually treating your skin while looking pretty.

You may also try the Beauticontrol Secret Agent wrinkle deflector makeup primer (P550). It gives dull, dry skin a glow and diffuses the appearance of wrinkles.

Meanwhile, the Secret Agent Undercover makeup (P550) will camouflage pigmentation. Make Up For Ever Liquid Lift Foundation will check the early stages of skin sagging. Fanny Serrano Crème Mousse foundation (P375) provides ample coverage that blends but does not settle into fine lines and feels like nothing on.

3. For those who wear glasses, in order to prevent the old-maid or unapproachable-schoolmarm look, try deep-colored lipstick on. Women with glasses tend to disappear under the frames even if they are the right shape.

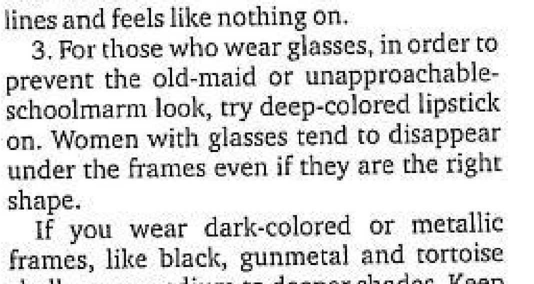
If you wear dark-colored or metallic frames, like black, gunmetal and tortoise shell, wear medium to deeper shades. Keep the makeup on the rest of the face minimal when you wear glasses as all you need is a raisin, rust, red, plum or brown velvet lipstick shade for your face to appear. The effect is actually sexy, like in those movies where the heroine takes off her glasses, yanks out her ponytail and looks really hot!

Choice lipsticks: Reds—Fashion 21 Colour Mood in Bad Apple (black red) or Wild Cherry (deep red), P150 each; Shu Uemura WN 292 (vampire red); Revlon Crushed Velvet Chocó Lust (deep reddish brown); or Raisin Rage (mauve-plum).

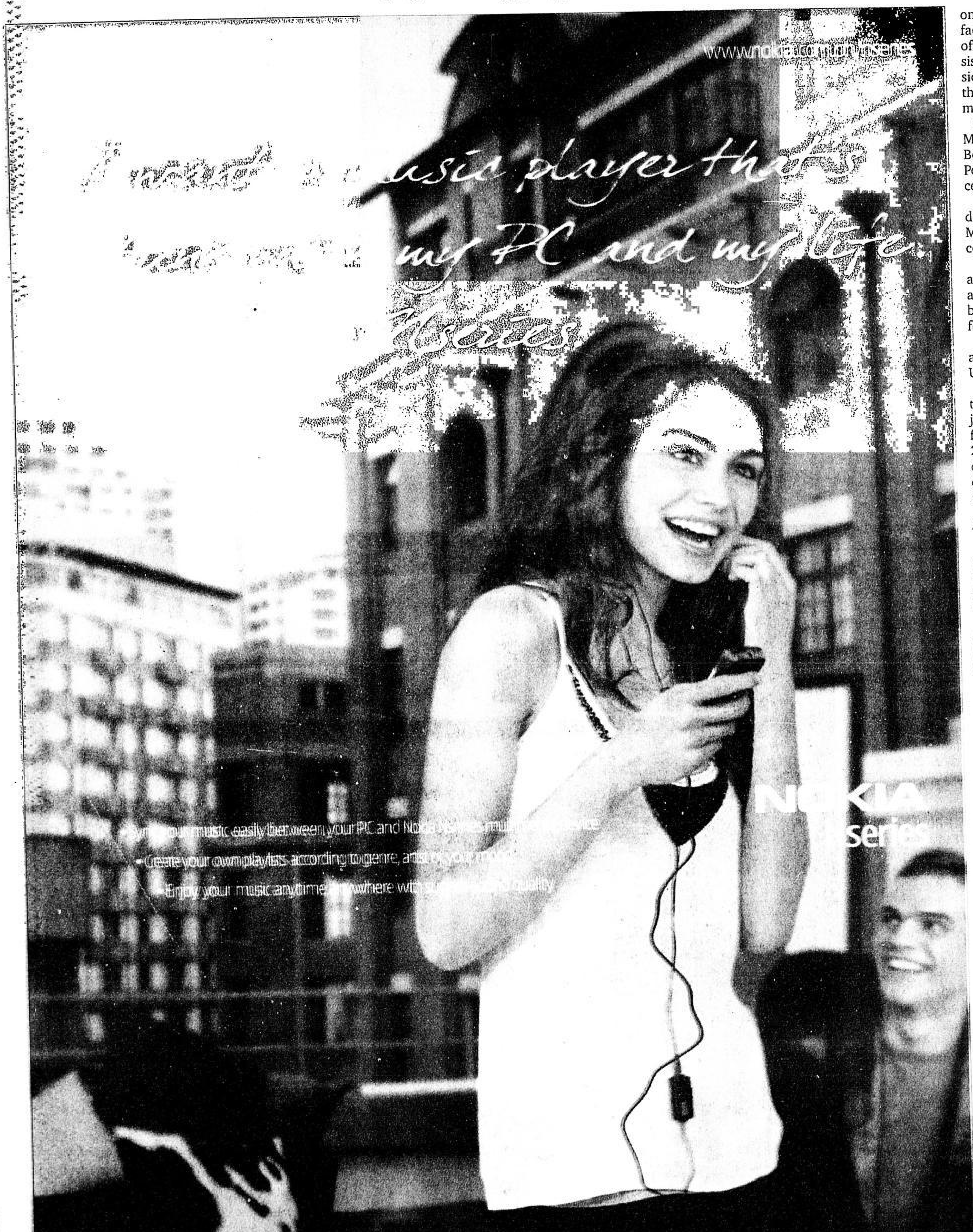
Check out the Fashion 21 Colour Mood Lipsticks at Watson's. These are very reasonably priced at only P150. They have rich-pigmented, nondrying colors perfect for most skin tones.

If there is a shade you just want to try out for the season, buy cheap or reasonably priced lipstick and makeup. Don't waste money. If it is a shade you wear regularly and can finish up, go ahead and splurge on the luxurious brands.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com



DRAMATIC DEEP LIPS. Fashion 21 Bad Apple, Sweet Raisin; Shu Uemura WN 292, Fashion 21 Color Mood in Wild Cherry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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Contributing Editors
Jenni Epperson
and Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

FASHION

Gear up!

45 years
Metrobank

Philcharter: Moving Forward

Over the last couple of years, the insurance industry experienced a softening as evidenced by a decreasing number of industry players, from 137 in 2005 to 95 in 2007. Despite industry challenges, Philippine Charter Insurance Corporation (PhilCharter) generated close to a billion in premium volume last year, placing it among the top non-life insurance companies in the Philippines.

Currently, its ownership structure stands with eighty percent owned by Metrobank and the remaining twenty percent owned by Sumitomo Ins. Co Ltd. The company has an authorized capital of P350 million, with total assets of P2.383 billion.

PhilCharter stands by its 47 years of commitment and responsibility to the various markets it serves. Its track record in claims settlement has earned the trust and respect of the industry and its growing number of customers.

PhilCharter takes a fresh perspective in the industry through market expansion and continuous product development. To bring in new customers, the company embarked on intensive product trainings for agents covering its network of 15 branches nationwide. To promote new products, the company engages in sales drives regularly. PhilCharter believes that in opening up new markets, it has to use fresh approaches in addressing the growing needs of its customers. Thus, it formed strategic product tie-ups and leveraged on partnerships with other members of the Metrobank Group including Metrobank Card Corporation, Orix Metro Leasing Corporation, and Philippine Savings Bank.

At the forefront of providing innovative products in its category, it is currently promoting Bayaning Pinoy Emergency Insurance, a special insurance package exclusively for Overseas Filipino Workers. It also introduced Global Travel Security, a pioneering comprehensive insurance product for travelers. The company tailor-fits its services for special market needs like Home Security, Business Security, and Auto Security.

Offering convenience to policyholders, its branches are strategically located nationwide providing complete one-stop shop insurance services. Other channels to serve customers are also being developed. Soon, customers can also experience the benefits of online insurance services through its new website.

Recognizing that good people are important to a successful organization, PhilCharter values employee performance and productivity. It practices Kaizen, a productivity tool in the organization.

Above all, the trust and confidence of its policyholders are PhilCharter's foundation for strong performance and leadership. It will continue to work on its vision of being the company of choice, providing the best insurance solutions that exceed customer expectations.

The PhilCharter head office is located at ground and second floors, Skyland Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner Tindalo Street, Makati City. For inquiries, please call 580-6800 (connecting all departments). For sales, please call 580-6870, 580-6862, 580-6882 or for claims, call 580-6887; 580-6869. PhilCharter branches are located at Binondo, Quezon City, Kalookan, Alabang, Marikina, Calamba, Baguio, Tarlac, Naga, Davao, General Santos, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Bacolod, and Iloilo.

No home is safe from fire.

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Philippine Charter Insurance Corporation (PhilCharter) is one of the nation's leading non-life insurance companies. Having a PhilCharter insurance policy is your best security from accidents caused by fire, vehicular theft, perils of the sea, personal accident and accidents to life and property. For more information, please email us at **customerservice@philcharter.com.ph**

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Metrobank Group

FIRE MOTOR CAR MARINE PERSONAL ACCIDENT BONDS CASUALTY ENGINEERING

Wet-weather essentials

Add some rainy-day staples to update your erstwhile summery frocks

By Bianca Consunji
Contributor

"THERE WILL COME soft rains and the smell of the ground," wrote the poet Sara Teasdale. "And swallows circling with their shimmering sound; and frogs in the pools singing at night, and wild plum-trees in tremulous white."

While the rainy season conjures images of misty cities and romantic downpour, getting caught in a rain shower is enough to make you forget yourself and curse the miserable skies (or worse, if your favorite shoes and designer handbag are drenched as well).

There are some things you understandably have to give up with the onset of the rainy season: lightweight flip-flops, skimpy swimwear, and paper-thin white tops (unless you want to show off your underwear in a sudden downpour).

However, you don't have to exchange all your dresses and shorts for long-sleeved tops and jeans. With some tweaking, your regular wardrobe can be used all year round. All you have to do is add some rainy-day essentials to update your erstwhile summery frocks.

In fact, wearing dresses and shorts can sometimes be more practical than jeans when heading out into a rain shower. To avoid getting the hems of your pants wet, opt to wear shorts or dresses paired with Wellingtons and a coat; that way, you'll prevent ruining a pair of expensive shoes (since Wellingtons are maintenance-free) and getting mud spattered on your legs as well.

For those who love the '60s Brit-pop look, the rainy season is the best time to get away with the short dress-and-boots ensemble.

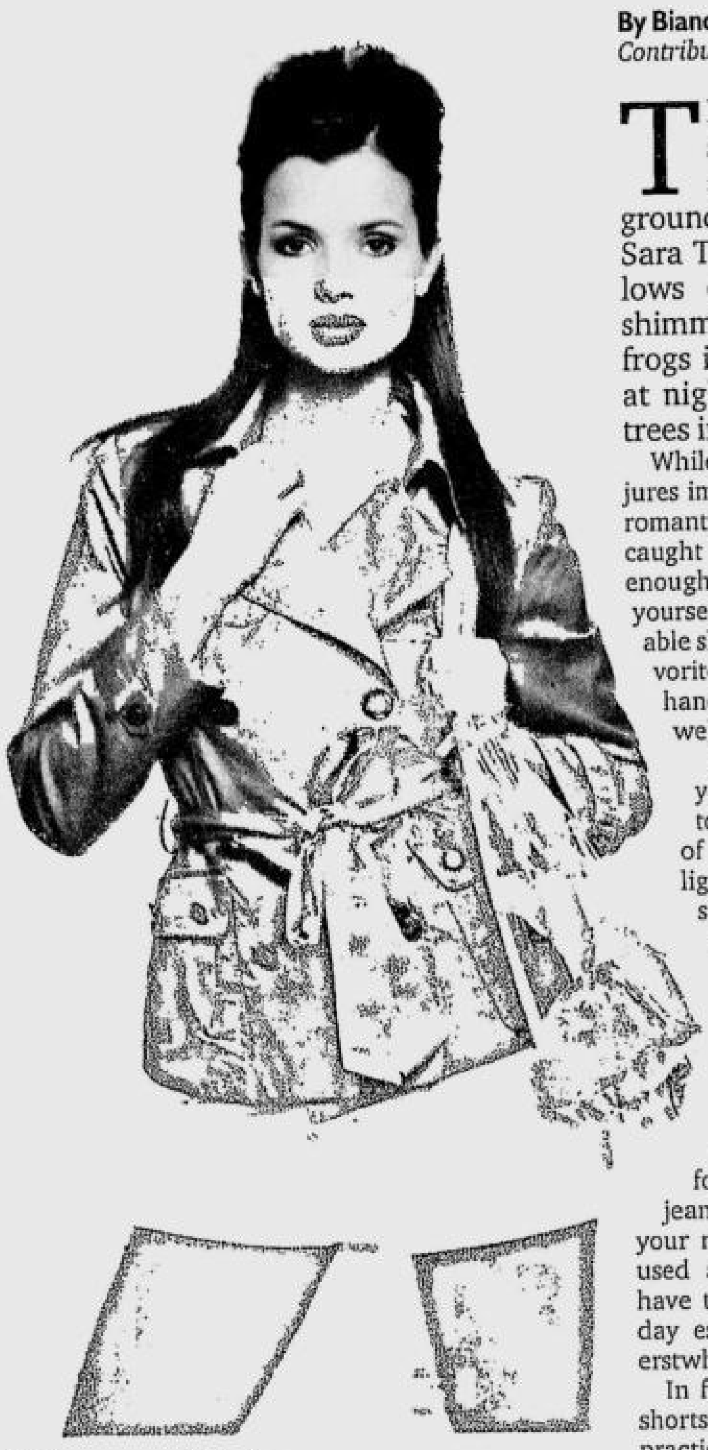
However, when you wear dresses to go out, keep in mind that a mid-length coat is essential; you wouldn't want your dress to get assaulted by the rain. Also, the coat will provide enough warmth to compensate for the lack of material around your legs if you're not wearing pants.

Practicality is your best friend during the rainy season; make sure you always have an umbrella with you even on sun-scorched days, since you don't know if the weather will take a turn for the worse at the end of the day.

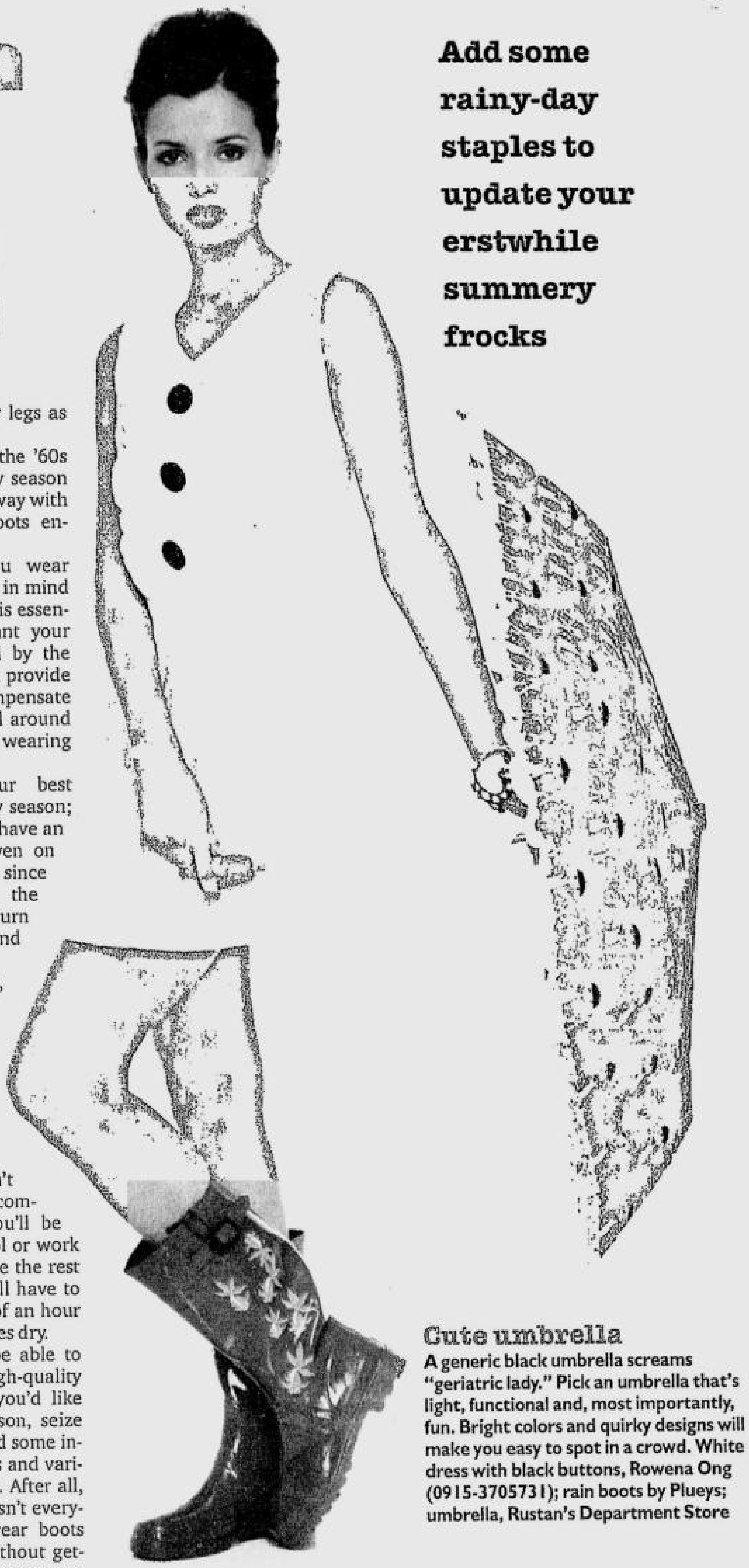
Choose a small, portable umbrella that you can easily stash in a large handbag. You can also opt to bring a raincoat with you to protect yourself from the showers, since an umbrella won't be able to cover you completely. That way, you'll be able to sail into school or work with a dry outfit while the rest of your colleagues will have to spend the good part of an hour trying to get themselves dry.

While you won't be able to wear suede or high-quality leather as often as you'd like during the rainy season, seize the opportunity to add some international influences and variety to your wardrobe. After all, in the Philippines, it isn't everyday that you can wear boots and a trench coat without getting laughed out of the country.

E-mail the author at bianca-consunji@yahoo.com



Waterproof tote
Let it all out—in a clear plastic tote, that is. Since you wouldn't want your leather handbags to get drenched in the rain, bring a waterproof tote instead wherever you go, so you can store your things without worrying about getting your bag wet. Plastic tote from Plueys Manila



Cute umbrella
A generic black umbrella screams "geriatric lady." Pick an umbrella that's light, functional and, most importantly, fun. Bright colors and quirky designs will make you easy to spot in a crowd. White dress with black buttons, Rowena Ong (0915-3705731); rain boots by Plueys; umbrella, Rustan's Department Store

Photography Toto Labrador
Styling Bianca Consunji
Makeup Tatin Yang of Lancome using
Mystery Game collection
Hair Tony Dusich
of L'Oreal Professionnel
Model Emely Fardo of Look Models

A pair of rain boots
Great for hurdling mud-filled puddles, Wellingtons, or Wellies for short, are rubber boots that first became popular in the UK. Wellies by Plueys, e-mail plueysmanila@gmail.com or contact 0917-8175843.

Raincoat
You usually see them on traffic policemen, but don't knock raincoats until you've tried them. They'll keep you dry when an umbrella fails. To avoid being mistaken for an MMDA traffic guide, don't go for the bright-orange slickers. Pick a more subdued color such as blue, and pair it with bright colors for the rest of your wardrobe. Orange dress from Rowena Ong (0915-3705731); necklace, Yellow; blue raincoat, SM Department Store

Light trench coat
Want to feel like Ingrid Bergman from "Casablanca"? Then add a shot of instant style into your wardrobe with a short trench that can be worn with dresses and pants. Black trench coat, Jill by Rustan's; black cap, Siqueonone; orange graphic dress, Yellow (0917-5770628)

FASHIONFLASH FASHIONFLASH

Shop for sight

Shared Vision for a Clear Future
Gift of Sight
Ideal
VISION CENTER

IDEAL VISION HAS LAUNCHED WITH select Rotary Club chapters the Gift Sight Program.

The program has been going on for decades now, conducting free eye clinics and providing free eyewear to indigents around the country.

This year, the program seeks to involve shoppers in the cause.

In celebration of the annual Sight Saving Month, Ideal Vision Center is donating one pair of eyeglasses (frames) to the Gift of Sight Project for any customer purchase of an eyewear product.

Participating Ideal Vision Stores include SM Megamall, Bacoor, Dasmarinas, Mall of Asia, Pampanga, Clark, Lucena, North Edsa, Fairview, Makati, Manila, Sucat, San Lazaro and Centerpoint; Ever Gotesco and Commonwealth; Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Festival Mall; and Ideal Vision Center, Waltermart Makati.

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The year of the dress

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A DRESS TO showcase femininity and womanliness. At SM, dresses are celebrated in the prettiest, most sophisticated and sensuous styles.

Classic silhouettes are given a fresh spin with the season's biggest trends—cinched waists, mini to midi lengths, subtle sheen and playful prints.

How to get best-dressed? Here are some tips from SM:

- **Jersey.** It's Coco Chanel redux as her iconic simple fluid jersey dresses return to flatter. Showing a lot of attention to ease of movement and comfort, these beige, navy and black pieces can go anywhere, day or night.
- **Little black dress.** Immortalized by the legendary Audrey Hepburn, the little black dress remains a timeless piece.
- **Wrap.** Diane von Furstenberg made quite an impact on the fashion world when she introduced her knitted jersey wrap dress in 1970s. Fashion remains wrapped up today in its fresh new variations for the modern woman—in jersey and shirtwaist versions, as well as in full-skirted satin outfits.
- **Shift vs sheath.** Hubert Givenchy designed the sack dress in the 1950s, sparking a trend that led to the sheath and later on waistless shift dresses. A decade later, Mary Quant began the mini shift dress revolution. The shift and the sheath are two of the most popular dress styles—both have sleek silhouettes and lots of sophistication.

What's the difference? While the shift clearly lacks waist definition, the sheath puts the spotlight firmly on the waist without bands or belts. These have been updated today with more defined shapes, allowing for slim and medium-size leather or fabric belts to cinch the waist.

- **Baby-doll.** This dress celebrates free spiritedness with its empire waist and shorter skirt. There's a little girl charm, an ingénue sexiness to its lines.

The dress collection is available at the Ladies Wear department of all SM stores.

Available at SM Department Store.

GOLDEN empire

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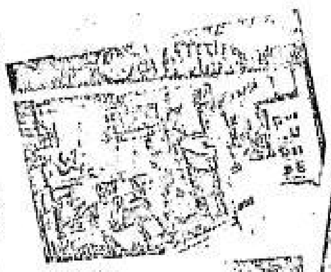

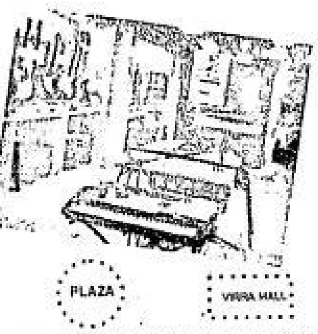

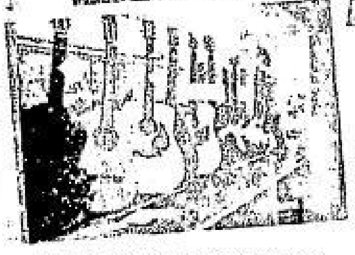

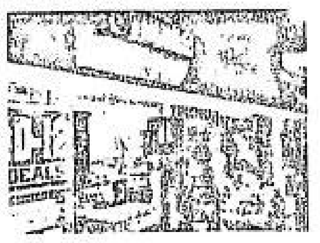

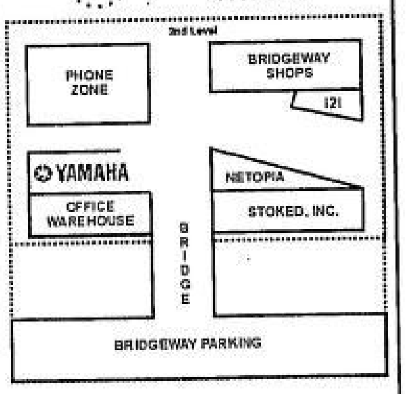

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Muse flash!

FASHION BUZZ
Hot, haute, hot news!

KC Concepcion, the new Bayo girl

TAKING HER PLACE IN LOCAL fashion history after the likes of Lea Salonga, Danielle Cojuangco, Kitchie Nadal and Barbie Almabis is multi-faceted celebrity KC Concepcion, who is Bayo's latest endorser.

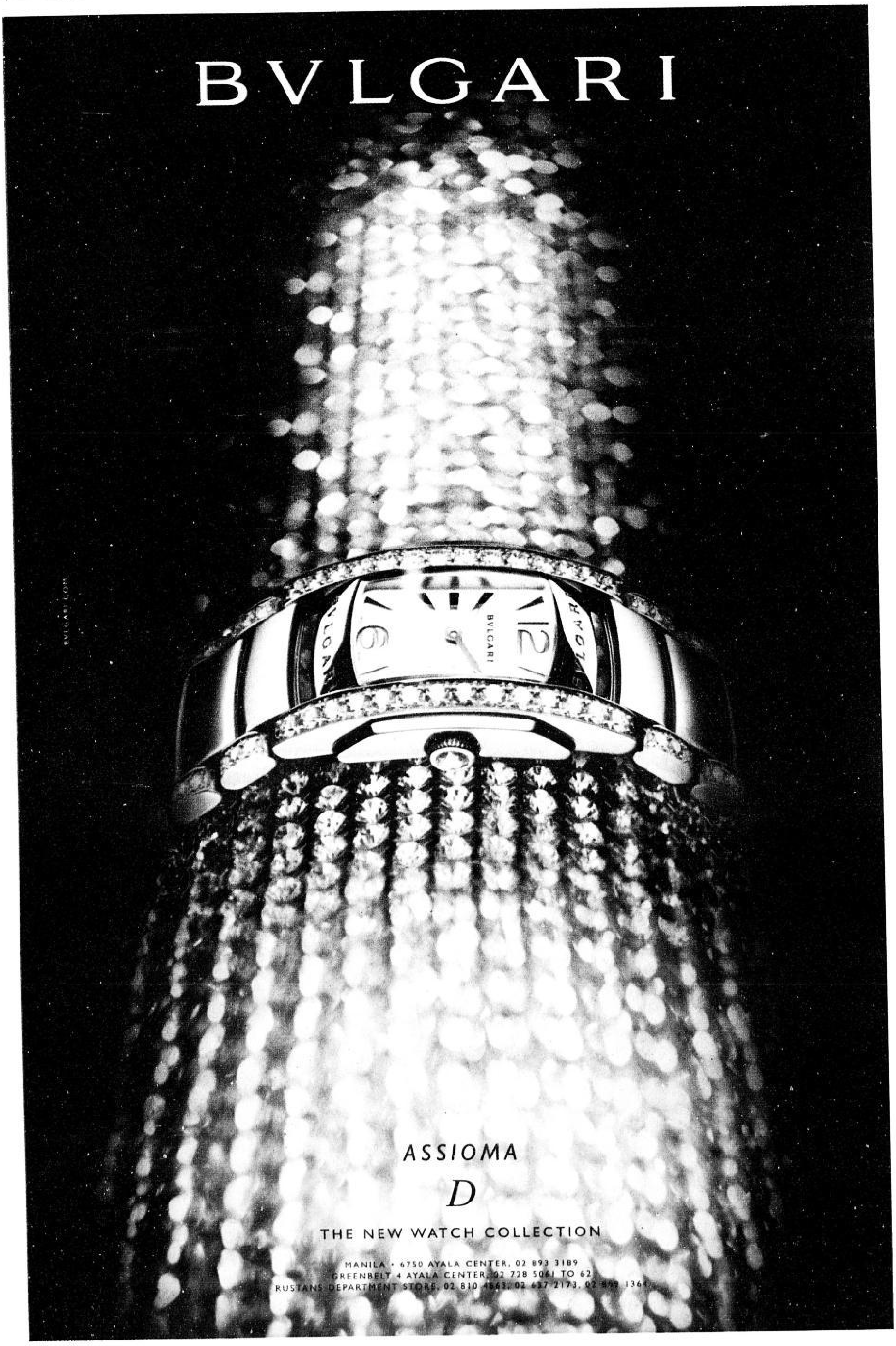
KC comes in at the perfect time for the forward-thinking fashion label, which is about to categorize its clothes into three distinct lines: Young, Trendy and Classic looks, all set for this October.

Fresh from graduation in Paris, which she has called home for the past few years, KC is back for good with newfound energy for the many projects waiting for her in Manila. These projects go beyond commercial endorsements and photo shoots, since she is also actively involved in charity work. Yes, KC, the new Bayo girl, she grounds her celebrity status with substance.

Best of all, she is absolutely home-grown! Bayo is justifiably proud of its tradition of using fabulous Filipinas to endorse the brand.

JE

FABULOUSLY Pinoy



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GREENBELT 4 AYALA CENTER, 02 728 5061 TO 62
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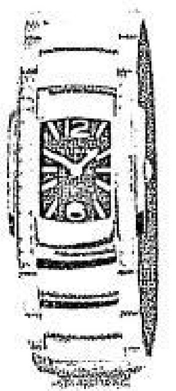
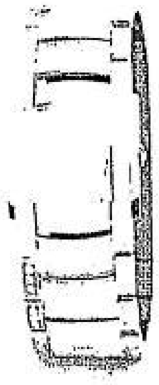
TIME IS DIVINE AT BULGARI

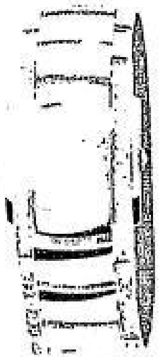
Bulgari offers a new, exclusive line of precious watches for the women of the world. Inspired by the 1950s, ***Assioma D*** takes off from the successful introduction of the original Assioma Collection and exudes the characteristics of the contemporary women it is designed for.

Each design encapsulates the glamour of the contemporary ***diva***, the irresistible allure of a ***donna*** and the purity and exclusivity of ***diamonds***. The new Assioma D line comes in yellow gold, rose gold and white gold versions that are embellished with diamond pavé. Three unique pieces in baguette-cut diamonds, sapphires and rubies complete the collection in an excellent interpretation of refined femininity.

Assioma D is now available in Manila. Visit Bulgari Boutiques: 6750 Shopping Arcade, 8933189 and Greenbelt 4, 7285061 and Bulgari Watchcorners: Rustan's Makati Silvervault, 8104663, Rustan's Tower Silvervault, 6372173 and Rustan's Alabang Town Center, 8091364.


Medium size (31mm), pink gold case set with round brilliant cut diamonds and pink gold bracelet. Pink gold crown set with a rose cut diamond, black dial.


Medium size (31mm), white gold case and bracelet set with round brilliant cut diamonds. White gold crown set with a rose cut diamond, with émaillé dial enriched by raised curved decoration


Medium size (31mm), yellow gold case and bracelet set with round brilliant cut diamonds. Yellow gold crown set with a rose cut diamond white émaillé dial enriched by raised curved decoration

Medium size (31mm), yellow gold case and bracelet. White émaillé dial enriched by raised curved decoration.

LifeStyle FASHION

Modern masters

For close to four decades now, Auggie Cordero's supremely confident, romantic but contemporary designs have dominated Philippine fashion

Conclusion

WE PRESENT AUGGIE Cordero, our fourth and final choice as one of the country's modern masters. Much has been said about him and his designs, especially since he had just concluded his much publicized gala fashion show last month. But what really goes on this master's mind? Read on and find out.

Auggie Cordero, 'Supremo' of style

When and how did you get started in the fashion business?

I worked as an apprentice for Emma Crisologo for about two years. Then, I tried working for a fashion salon, but I didn't get paid. That was in the late sixties. I worked for three months for one shop, then another three months for another shop. I would get disappointed and I would think na *tama siguro* parents ko, this is not a good business.

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

What's your educational background. Did you study fashion?

I was not allowed to study anything related to fashion. I studied commerce. Before, if your parents were CPAs, you had to be a CPA. It was very traditional. And you can't just reason out. You can't tell them you have other dreams that you want to pursue.

When did you know that this is what you wanted to do?

When I was 7 years old, when I saw movies with costumes and princesses. At that time there were no research materials. There were no books on fashion, on costumes. Even when you go to the big libraries, *wala naman* anything to do with fashion.

My drawings then would be very small heads and bodies with a skirt as big as the bond paper. I realized that I was fascinated with these things because maybe I wanted to make clothes.

When I told my parents that I wanted to go into fine arts, they knew I was gearing towards design. It was what I wanted to do, but they told me that it was not a profession. Because they didn't know any better.

I wasn't even allowed to sketch. No dinner if I sketched. So, I would padlock my sketches in a copper chest. I would sketch the whole afternoon, then I would padlock it so they wouldn't know. All my allowance would go to bond paper and pencils, and colored pencils.

How long did you work for different fashion houses before you established your own?

One and a half years and then I didn't work for another year. I got disillusioned. I thought I couldn't survive with this kind of work. I didn't do anything or work for anybody for more than a year. But if it's your calling, you really want to do it. *Kahit na walang pera*, at least you'll be fulfilled.

So, I worked for another company. Ok *naman* but they asked me to sign a contract. I thought this was my big break so I signed it, but I didn't realize that they would control me for two years. I would work more than 12 hours a day.

But I learned how to go to Divisoria everyday, buy the *tela*, buy the thread, buy everything. And then I'd ask the cutter to cut and then in the afternoon, the client could already fit the dresses.

What's your design philosophy?

Along the way, you develop a certain style that you enhance and it's distinctively

MODERN/ E2

First Metro Investment Corporation - A Catalyst for Growth of the Philippine Capital Markets

With a solid track record that reflects landmark deals for both the government and the private sector coupled with a history of exceptional financial performance, First Metro Investment Corporation has been recognized as a leading financial institution specializing in investment banking services.

As the investment banking arm of Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. (Metrobank), it holds the distinction of being the only publicly listed investment house among the 44 member institutions of the Investment House Association of the Philippines (IHAP).

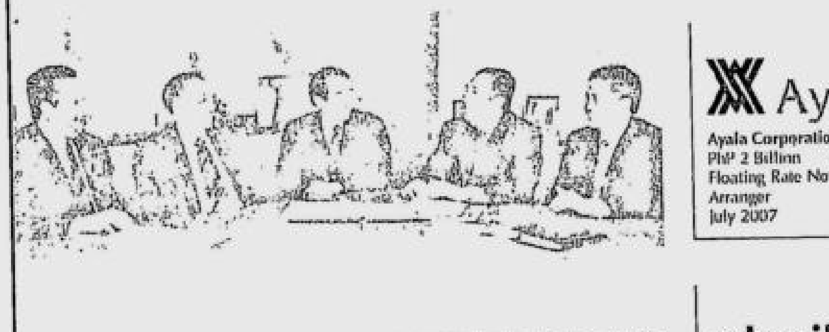
Leadership for First Metro Investment transcends the traditional benchmarks of financial performance and market share. While it consistently exhibits sound fundamentals, a net income of Php1.07 billion in 2006, return on equity of 14.3% and Php39.3 billion in total assets, as well as a 49% share of the debt and equities market, the Company believes that effective leadership lies in its ability to develop capital markets through continuous product development.

First Metro Investment takes pride in establishing the retail bond market in the country, distributing Php59.0 billion or 15% of the aggregate Php379 billion retail treasury bonds (9 tranches). It has very recently established the privatization bonds as well as arranging the Ayala Corporation Php7.0 billion retail bonds, the first widely-distributed retail bond by a private company. The success of these deals were proof of the Company's wide distribution network backed by the 557 Metrobank branches as well as its two marketing desks in Makati and Binondo that reaches out to institutional funds and private clients.

First Working with a consortium, Metro Investment paved the way for the country's first local currency hybrid capital and the first perpetual preferred shares listed on the stock exchange, in the form of the Ayala Preferreds. It was joint lead manager and joint bookrunner for the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Php5.0 billion bonds issue, the first Triple A-rated peso-denominated supranational bond issuance.

First Metro Investment's industry-building efforts are validated by the numerous awards it continues to receive as Best Bond House and Best Investment Bank.

Empowering Performance



Necessity powers innovation.

At First Metro Investment, we match our clients' fund requirements with creative solutions, and thus enable them to focus on achieving their visions. We identify and tap new capital channels for them. We address evolving regulatory pressures on them through strategic balancing. We lower their borrowing costs and [illegible] spreads.

We commit ourselves to the development of the Philippine capital market by corporate and institutional value creation, preservation and realization.

ADB
Asian Development Bank
PhP 5 Billion
Fixed Rate Bonds
Joint Lead Manager
and Joint Bookrunner
May 2007

Republic of the Philippines
PhP 77.6 Billion
Retail Treasury Board Tranche 9
Joint Issue Manager
and Joint Issue Coordinator
August 2007

Metrobank Card Corporation
Metrobank Card Corporation
PhP 1.925 Billion
Corporate Notes
Issue Manager
April 2007

ADM CAPITAL
ADM Capital
PhP 600 Million
Corporate Notes
Issue Manager
April 2007

Ayala
Ayala Corporation
PhP 2 Billion
Floating Rate Notes
Arranger
July 2007

SM Prime Holdings, Inc.
PhP 4 Billion
Floating Rate Notes
Lead Arranger
and Joint Bookrunner
June 2007

aboitiz Power Corporation
Aboitiz Power Corp.
PhP 10.08 Billion
Initial Public Offering
Domestic Co-Lead Underwriter
July 2007

PETRON
Petron Corporation
PhP 2 Billion
Corporate Notes
Issue Manager
January 2007

Ayala
Ayala Corporation
PhP 5.8 Billion
Perpetual Preferred Shares
Joint Lead Underwriter
July 2006

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY
Philippine Ports Authority
PhP 2 Billion
Fixed Rate Corporate Notes
Joint Issue Manager
and Lead Underwriter
April 2007

First Philippine Holdings
PhP 5 Billion
Fixed Rate Corporate Notes
Co-Manager
March 2007

GMA
GMA Network
PhP 8.92 Billion
Initial Public Offering
Participating Underwriter
July 2007

FIRST METRO INVESTMENT CORPORATION
Metrobank Group

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45 years
Metrobank

Toyota Financial Gets Quasi-bank License

TOYOTA FINANCIAL Services Philippines Corporation (TFSPH), the nation's second largest financing company*, recently secured approval from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to engage in quasi-banking functions.

TFSPH obtained a quasi-bank license from BSP as it celebrated its fifth year of productive operations. The BSP resumed issuing licenses of quasi-banking functions to investment houses and finance companies in February 2007 after seven years of suspension. TFSPH is the first institution to be granted a quasi-banking license since the freeze order was lifted.

In its bid to strengthen its position in the growing car financing market, TFSPH has also increased its capital by P500 million. The company received from its stockholders the total amount of P500 million representing the aggregate subscription price for the five million shares issued by the corporation out of its unissued capital stock.

TFSPH is 60% owned by Toyota Financial Services Corporation (TFSC), a leading financial services group based in Japan and wholly-owned by Toyota Motor Corporation. The Metrobank Group holds 40%, with Philippine Savings Bank (PSB) ownership at 25% and Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company (Metrobank) owning 15%. PSB is a subsidiary of Metrobank.

As part of Toyota's global network of sales finance companies, TFSPH services the customers of Toyota through financing and leasing services, as well as wholesale financing for Toyota dealers. TFSPH aims to become the foremost financing arm of choice for Toyota.

Established in August 2002, TFSPH has grown aggressively servicing over 17,000 customers from only 5,400 in 2005. The company posted net income of P68.7 million in fiscal year 2007.

Car Financing?

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www.toyotafinancial.ph

LIFELONG STUDENT. "The moment the ego takes over your personality, you're not a human being anymore. *Ano ang pagyayabang mo, damit lang naman ang ginagawa mo?*"

Modern masters

From page E1

yours. In the '70s, I discovered books, museums—that was the time when coffee-table books were available.

I realized that there were so many things lacking in me. I felt so inadequate. I wasn't able to finish college so if I wanted to do this, I wanted a mind that would be able to absorb what's there to read and study.

That time, I realized that it's not just a matter of making clothes. You have to know what you're doing. You have to know the era, the history, the fabrics.

You have to learn and you have to be passionate about learning. You should be able to discuss things with anybody and know what you're talking about. And then you get inspirations from painters, designers, and the like.

When I saw my first exhibition abroad, I didn't realize that they could exhibit clothes. It was an awakening for me that this was serious. It's not just about making and delivering clothes. It's an eye-opener and there's a never-ending process of learning. You have to learn and study.

But what makes a garment Auggie Cordero? What are those elements?

Feminine, romantic, very womanly. I don't like clothes that would overpower a person. I want clothes that would complement the one wearing the clothes. I want it very feminine, lady-like.

What was the defining moment in your career?

> **'You have to be passionate about learning. You should be able to discuss things with anybody and know what you're talking about'**

In 1973 when I did a well-researched collection—Great Gatsby—at the Hyatt. I knew I was on the right path. With enough research, enough work, I knew I could make a go of my career. The clientele kept on increasing. I would meet society people, well-dressed women.

When you're young and you appear in the papers almost every week, it feeds the ego. But you realize also along the way, that you have to be grounded, because the moment the ego takes over your personality, you're not a human being anymore. *Ano ang pagyayabang mo, damit lang naman ang ginagawa mo?*

I feel that humility is one part of our career that sometimes *madaling ma*-overpower *ng* success. It's easy to make money, you meet so many important people, so these feed your ego.

But at the same time, you have to think that even if you're well-known now, you're successful now, what's going to happen when you go down?

You have to add and not subtract. You have to keep pace with the competition and at the same time, you have to know where you came from.

Why, in your opinion, are you considered one of Manila's modern masters?

It's up to other people to say it because I, even now, still have to prove myself and show what I can do in the fashion industry. It's a never-ending process because the moment you become complacent, *wala na.* You have to be aware of what you can do and how you can improve your craft.

It's flattering to be emulated by young designers. But at the same time, you cannot let them down. Sometimes it's scary. The moment you become predictable, *nawawala na.*

Who are the designers you consider masters?

Inno, Joe... *sayang*, Gang, Cesar. We came from the old-school of designing. You have to learn to satisfy your client, you have to know their diverse lifestyles. You cannot just make a dress that's not within that lifestyle and not within their taste.

Even if a dress is beautiful but a client says that's not me or it does not suit me, it's no use. I'm no fashion victim. You have to make it a point that when they wear your dress, they'll be proud. Then you edit also. They'll trust you to choose the shoes and jewelry.

How have you adapted to the changing times and fashions? How do you hone your craft?

You have to do research every time. Besides the visuals, you also have to read. Next week, I have a new book coming, "The History of Fashion Photography."

What else do you want to achieve in this industry?

More! Make more clothes that are different from what others are doing.

At this point in time, you're thinking of when to call it quits, when you have to say "I have to close shop, I don't want to work anymore." But you want to leave a legacy that they'll remember you by.

I really love what I do. If you don't love what you do and you're only after the money and the glamour, nothing will happen to you. I never liked the glamour of my profession.

How would you describe the local fashion industry?

There's none, in the strict sense of the word. But we have enough talent. *Sayang.* Can you imagine if there were so many things available here?

Before, Thailand was *bale wala nung araw yan, baduy na baduy.* Hong Kong was the only competition, but they were afraid of us. But now, even Vietnam and Cambodia are doing well.

What should be done to improve its condition?

The government is not clear if we can bring in materials. I thought the government would help the industry because (fashion) could be a money maker.

We need government support and leeway. Plus, definite rules about importation of materials.

It's cheaper to bring in materials from abroad, even if my baggage is overweight 120 kilos, because here the materials are 10 times the price. One thing I cannot understand in Manila is that they'll charge you more if you're a designer and charge you less if you're a dressmaker. They'll say, "*mahal ka naman sumingil eh.*"

Actually abroad, like New York, you cannot enter any of the wholesale shops. Outside it says wholesale, trade only. So, if you're a designer, you register with them and you get as much as 50-70 percent discount.

What are the strengths of local designers?

Their minds, their creativity, and their resourcefulness. With the conditions, they become stronger.

Weaknesses?

They get easily dazzled by fame. *Mahirap 'yon.* If you get glowing reviews in the papers and all those hangers-on who say *na ang galing mo,* if you start believing all these things, that's your downfall. At the end of the day, *dapat ang isipin mo nagandahan sila sa damit ko. Pero maganda ba talaga?*

What makes you proud to be a Pinoy fashion designer?

I make Filipinos happy! When my bride cries because she's happy about her wedding gown, and she tells me "Auggie, *na*-fulfill *mo ang* fantasy *ko,*" that makes me proud. It's simple, and yet you know you'll always be a part of their whole life because you've made their biggest moment, the happiest moment of their life. Those things are worth more than the money they pay you.

Would you have it any other way? Exchange all this for a simpler, more quiet existence?

I did that 20 years ago. I know the key to my happiness—a simple, non-complicated existence, all the friends you can get, all the kind words you get from people who respect you, with your dignity intact.

Auggie Cordero:
537 Alonso Street, Malate Manila; tels. 5253997, 5251452

Photography Jun de Leon
Sittings Editor Millet Arzaga
Grooming Patrick Rosas
Photo Assistants Aldrin Convocar, Ramon Ty, Joseph Grego/Wings Photography
Image Manipulation Adan Convocar /Wings Photography
Auggie Cordero's Prop SONY Bravia TV (Special Thanks To Kata Digno/SONY)

Say aloha to Moana

Sun-drenched Fighting Eel

From page E4

end, the chain would circle the world 50 times! Talk about taking over the world, one *tsinelas* at a time.

Hot swimwear

Still on sun-drenched Brazil, CIA Maritima is the largest beachwear production company in Brazil. Considered the hottest and most sought after swimwear line in that country, CIA Maritima was launched by Benny Rosset in 1990.

In CIA Maritima, Rosset created a unique marriage of technology and style, with detailed handwork incorporated into the fabrics, coupled with fine embroidery, crystal beading and intricate lace. The brand is designed as a high-end boutique collection with very select distribution.

The swimwear collection, which has been worn by the likes of Giselle Bundchen and Naomi Campbell, is undoubtedly the most sophisticated to hit the sultry beaches of Brazil.

From LA, Moana picked up something for all T-shirt junkies. LAMade tees are down-home comfortable yet stylish enough for a night out. LAMade's versatile selection of tops and dresses always come with distinct details that make them easy to wear yet very fashionable: reverse seams, sheared necklines and trapeze bodies.

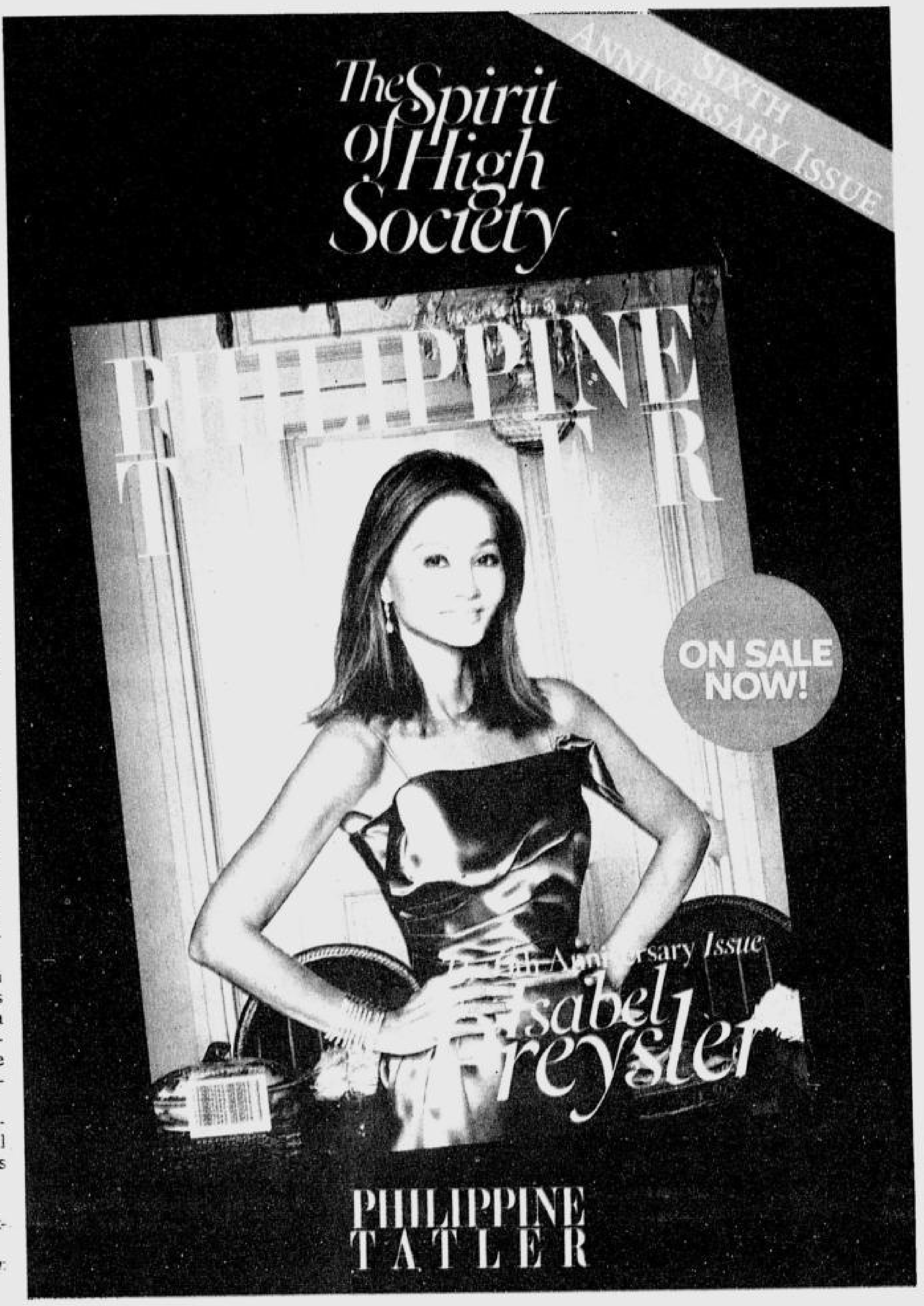
From the island that glorifies the ultimate beach lifestyle, Hawaii, comes Fighting Eel, a creation of designers Rona Bennett and Lan Chung. They have combined their distinct personal styles and their undeniable love for fashion and dream vacations to create Fighting Eel.

Created in 2003, Fighting Eel clothes can now be found in hundreds of boutiques throughout the United States. The line is a blend of sexy and simple, with uncomplicated yet feminine dresses and tops that are surprisingly versatile, easily worn with either high heels or flip-flops.

Beach bums, lay out your terry cloth towels for Moana. Rain or shine, we can now all enjoy eternal sunshine in our spotless minds.

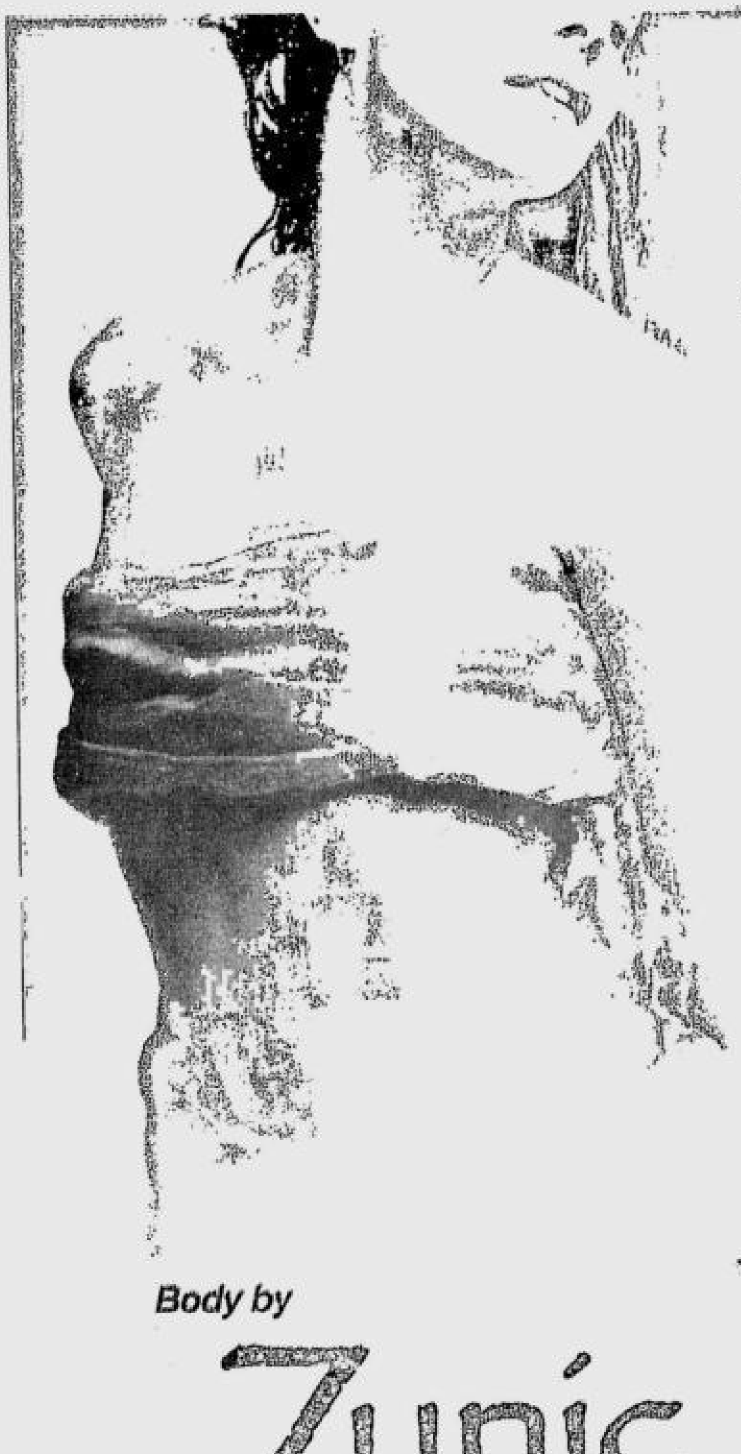
Moana is at G/F, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Makati.

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph



Violets are cool Cia Maritima

Hot stepper
Havaiannas "Alert." Available last week of September



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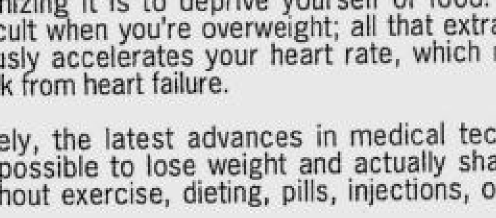

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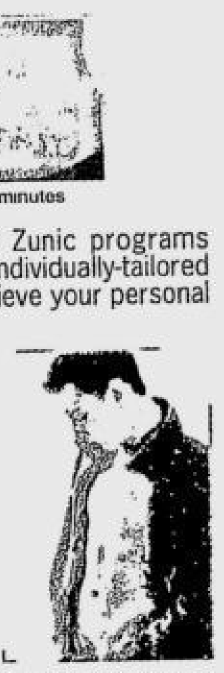

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Say aloha to Moana

This new boutique in Rockwell celebrates summer all-year round with international brands that embody fun-filled holidays and endless sun

Jenni Epperson

THE RAINY SEASON ALWAYS SIGNALS the introduction of some funky-sounding female names like "Chedeng" or "Sepat," names that have recently taken us by storm, literally.

But just because it's been wet, wet, wet outside doesn't mean that our dreams of summer have to be dampened. Certainly not with the debut of a friendlier, summery alternative named Moana. Read: fun, fun, fun!

"Moana" is Hawaiian for "open ocean," referring to the deep blue part of the ocean. It's also the name of a new boutique in Rockwell that celebrates summer all-year round. Yes, even if the floods are knee-high in the city!

The store was created in the spirit of Hawaii's carefree and sun-worshipping lifestyle, which is something that us tropical types can absolutely relate to. It's that laid-back, breezy and easygoing style that extends from the coastline to the city, storm or sunshine.

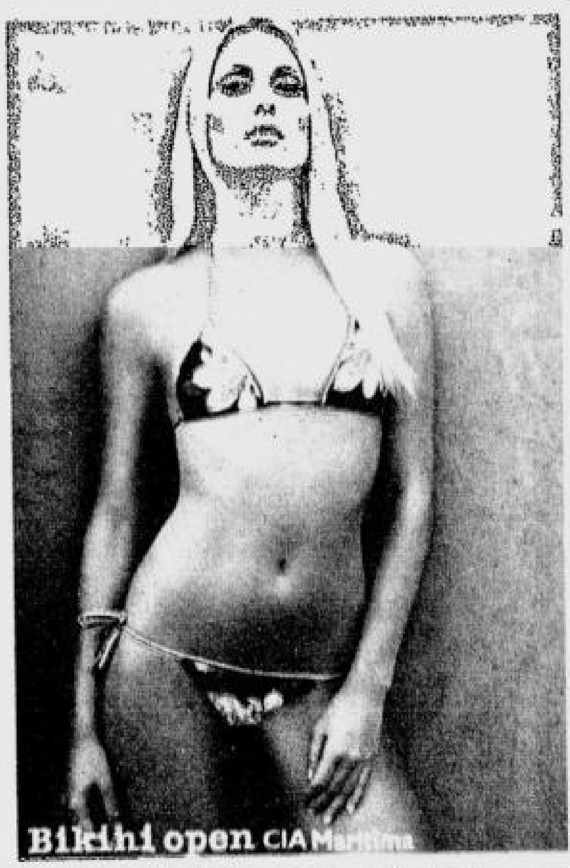
The different brands from all over the world that Moana carries in its boutique exemplify that spirit, including Havaianas, LA Made, CIA Maritima and Fighting Eel. From Brazil and Hawaii to LA and, of course, the Philippines, each label embodies a love for holidays and endless summer.

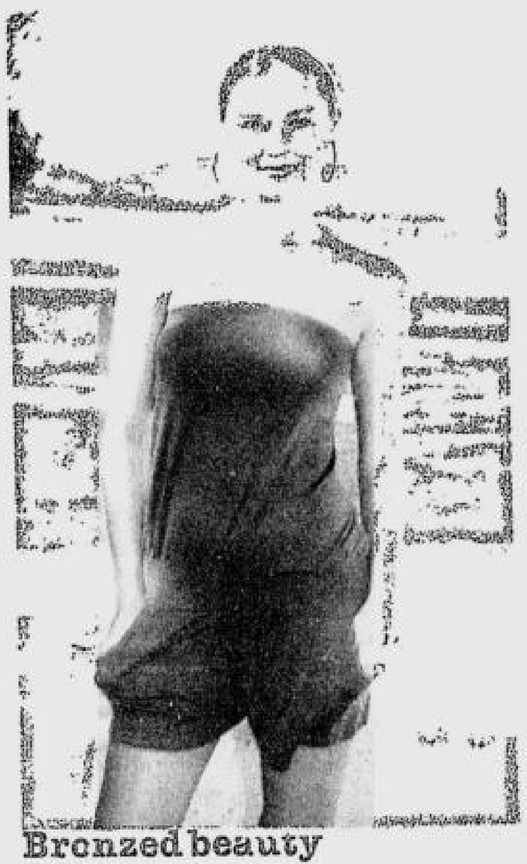
The most recognizable brand carried by Moana is, of course, Havaianas, which has become synonymous with flip-flops. In fact, you can't walk anywhere nowadays without spotting the colorful Brazilian slippers on someone's feet, whether it's in the streets of Makati or on White Beach in Boracay.

Havaianas actually means "Hawaiians" in Portuguese. Its inspiration came from the Zori, a Japanese-style sandal. The ultra-comfy, butter-soft flip-flops are fashioned out of a 42-year-old secret rubber formula.

A fun fact: Since it was launched in 1962, over 2.2 billion pairs of Havaianas have been produced and sold throughout the world! If they were laid out from end to

SAY/E2


Bikini open CIA Maritima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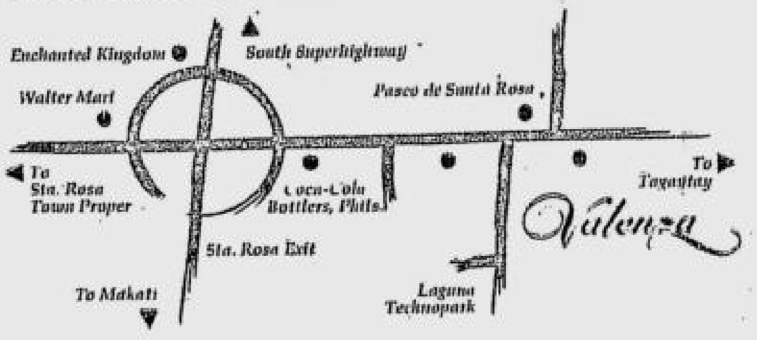

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Philippine fashion design is at its competitive best again

JOJIE Lloren

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

Cebu vs Manila designers in fashion fest

ARCY Gayatin

CEBU DEsigners have come into their own while Metro Manila designers continue to forge their individual identities and innovations. Together, they show that Philippine fashion is at its competitive best again—which is timely in this globalized era.

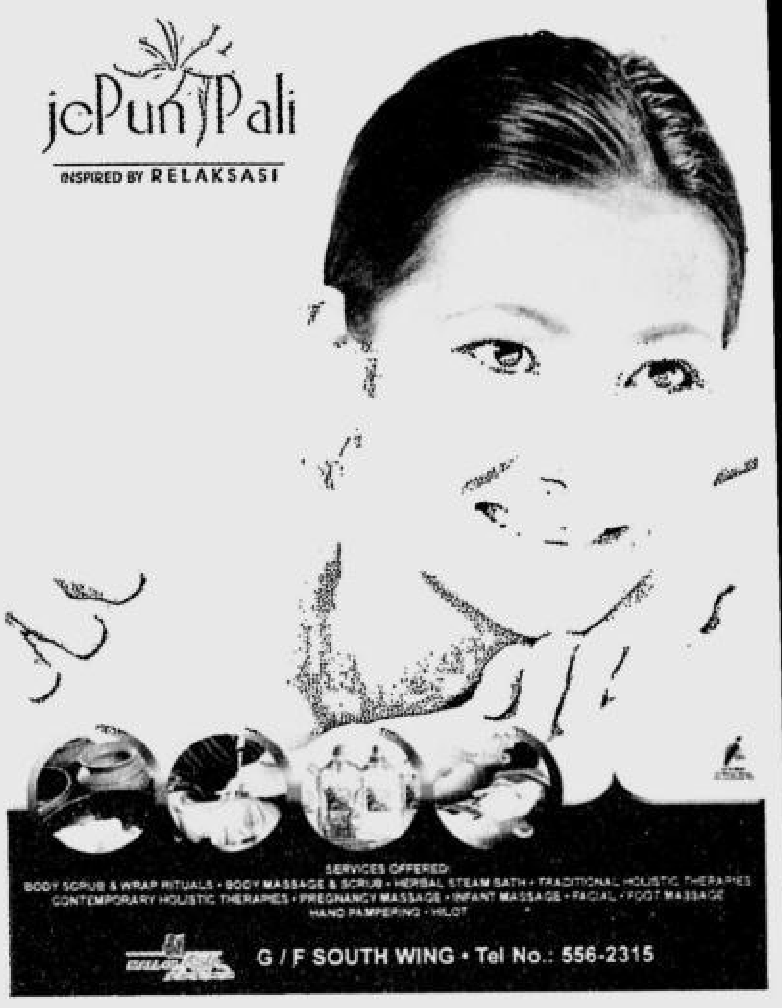
Cebu recently showcased the solid combination of local and Manila designs when the Waterfront Hotels and Casinos staged its annual Style Watch: three nights of fashion collections labored over by Waterfront general manager **Marco Protacio.**

It's futile to ask who is better—the Cebu or Manila designers—because both continue to build on their unique strengths. What is notable is how each designer, Cebuano or Metro Manilan, exudes confidence in their own style and skills, while daring to tread the risky ground of experimentation.

Cebu and Manila make for an exciting contest in fashion design.

The first show on Aug. 24 of Samsung Style Watch featured the collections of Clothes for Life, a broad association of 14 Cebu designers headlined by 2007's toast of the town, **Cary Santiago,** who continued his trademark curlicue design with some twist. The other designers of diverse styles and skills were **Salvador Malto, Harley Ruedas, Ren Manabat, Joy Bernaldez, Protacio Empaces, Marichu Tan, Edwin Ao, Edwin Alba, Humber-**

CEBU/F2



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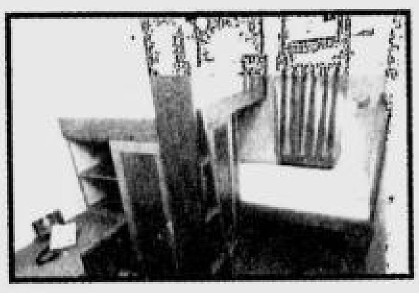

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Cebu vs Manila designers...

From page F1

to Villegas, **Wendell Quisido**, **Ray Kuam**, **Bryan Aloquin** and **Alan Fonte**.

The second night was the Cebu leg of the Samsung Metrowear, and it featured the Fashion Council of Cebu, which clearly left the audience in awe. The impressive collections displayed high standards of creativity.

Arcy Gayatin was a favorite with her play of soft and structured fabrics in black and champagne. Too good to resist was her organdy champagne tent dress with black geometric cutouts. It was clean, figure-enhancing, yet cutting-edge. Smartly, she littered her organdy evening wear, short or long—in stark yet flowing silhouettes—with monochromatic geometric cutouts. Sheer simplicity at its best.

In your face

If Arcy's were low-key elegance, **Jun Escario**'s clothes were in-your-face '40s drama, with the models' prominent curls gelled to the scalp. Influences poured in—Indian, Tibetan, African, Japanese—yet Escario managed the heavy traffic of styles. He fused adeptly the Indian sari with the Japanese kimono fabric. He knew how to use black to set off gold beading or metallic accent.

Philip Rodriguez had a captive audience in women, like he has every time, mainly because his clothes are beautiful, feminine, classic, with neat workmanship. He must be Cebu's Valentino.

Seeing his collections over the years, I've come to delineate his style. He speaks in colors no woman can resist, in fine fabrics such as chiffon and silk, while adding a twist. For some time, it was his "*pastillas*" trimmings—strips of fabrics cut like the trimmings of *pastillas* and sewn into various shapes; the silhouette could be either voluminous and layered or soft and figure-hugging.

This *pastillas* imagery has been Philip's trademark and we wouldn't be surprised if it has influenced the likes of Cary Santiago, who's now drawing an audience for strong imagery.

At Style Watch, Philip used bright jewel colors in either silk chiffon or organdy. The twist, this time, was an embellishment inspired by the paper *parol*—fabrics cut into concave patterns resembling *parol* trimmings and used to trim the hem or the sleeves.

This technique was shown to full advantage the following night, in the "Sposabella"—the bridal show of Cebu and Manila designers. Philip's wedding gowns used such patterns as accents, impressing even a Manila designer who compared them to pages of a book unfolding.

Oj Hofer's clothes stood out for their classic simplicity—clever draping of jersey, tulle, even velvet. Obviously, this fashion upstart of many years ago has evolved. His style is now clearly defined.

Albert Arriba stood out for his appliqués and electric pleating. In aqua, his clothes became visual all the more. **Minnie Yuvienco** showed exquisite evening wear few women would find hard to ignore—salmon silk satin sheath gown, luscious yellow taffeta dress with puff sleeves and balloon skirt, pinkish silver layered dress with sheer bodice. **Felix Yu**'s gowns were very rich, including a brown draped sarong skirt. They were clearly meant for busy high-society hostesses.

Best gowns and suits

"Sposabella" on the last night had the best wedding gowns and groom suits we've seen in recent years. Manila's designers gave it their all. We loved **Patrice Diaz**'s abaca cotton gowns, either one-shouldered or empire-cut.

Vittorio was trademark Vittorio—designer **Vic Barba** never overplays. Only he could do a minimalist take on a Byzantine gown, this time in cream brocade. **Ivarluski Aseron** showed how best he could do structure—corset bone detailing in the cleanest shift, or in serpentine.

Rhett Eala's gown bore the shimmer of glitz and glamour. His fitted bodice of matte silver sequins was inspired by the washed-out color of Venice and set off a dramatic tulle skirt.

Dennis Lustico had a winner in an ivory silk chiffon column gown with wide band on the bodice, its solid presence a foil to soft chiffon. Its draping at the back transformed into a floating train. Dennis is a master of silhouette and construction.

Jojie Lloren had an off-shoulder serpentine gown in off-white chantilly lace and a duchesse satin gown with bubbled hem. Jojie is so sure of his style identity that he saw no need to upstage.

Randy Ortiz was clearly in a romantic mood—*"nagdadalaga na naman,"* as he put it. His silk taffeta with volume sleeves and bustle at the back, or his serpentine gown with rosette embroidery, were so romantic.

Anthony Nocom showed what to us were his best groom suits in recent years—they were cut close to the body, neatly structured and had fine finish. A bride should really talk her groom into such body-defining suit, for a change, so grooms don't end up looking either corporate or too fancy on their wedding day.

Rajo Laurel had skin-baring gowns of reembroidered Belgian lace. With "destination wedding" in mind, he had another gown of silk chiffon and nylon garters, with sweetheart neckline.

JC Buendia had a draped dress with Mikado silk coat encrusted with pearls—a masterpiece of tailoring and our native wealth, the pearl. The coat weighed about 15 lbs.

Of course, **Monique Lhuillier** sent her signature pieces—one of them a masterpiece of volume and draping, another a sexy gown of exquisite lace.

OJ HOFER

PHILIP Rodriguez

RHETT Eala

JC BUENDIA

SAMSUNG'S Pen Roque, Metro Magazine's Thelma San Juan, socialite Elvira Luym, Waterfront Hotel's d Limpe-Aw and Mel Cuevas

High fashion in South's

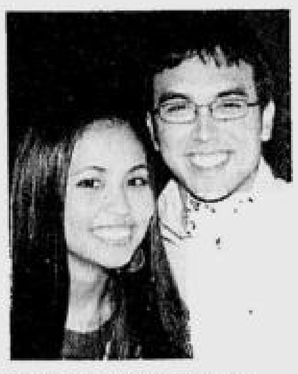
AMPARITO Lhuillier, Miriquita Yeung and Rose Hennessy

KAYE Luym, Cheryl Carcel and Anne Manubag

CHEZKA Martinez, Stanley Yap and ABS-CBN's Ernie Lopez

QUEENIE Aman, Bunny Ludo and Joseph Gonzales

GINGER Celso, Sarrita Pimentel and Renee Villasin



EPOL and Tieno Tenny

PACO and Monique Jarque

THE STAR CITY OF THE SOUTH HAD a super busy weekend. The Waterfront Hotel and Casino presented Samsung Style Watch for three days, *palanggas*. It was a smashingly successful whopper.

Samsung Style Watch was a glitzy series of runway shows that had hot namedroppable fashion names from the country and from other countries all showing off their creations, dahlings.

Designers from *Manille* like **Rhett Eala**, **Monique Lhuillier**, **Oj Hofer**, **Randy Ortiz** and **Dennis Lustico** participated. From Cebu were the likes of **Philip Rodriguez**, **Harley Ruedas**, **Edwin Ao**, **Joy Bernaldez** and **Wendell Quisido**.

On the first night, there were fun cocktails. It had the waiters dashing around, serving wine and booze, while the chic invitees hanged around the excellent spread. There was a steady stream of heavy cocktail finger food, as guests people-watched Cebu's who's-who, *palanggas*!

Naturellement, Waterfront's hottest hotshots entertained the guests, such as el simpatico, general manager **Marco Protacio**, who is definitely the hotel's mega-asset, stylish **Kaye G. Luym**, the marketing communications manager for food and beverage, vivacious **Anne Manubag**, and adorable **Jennie del Prado**. They made sure the tons of guests were happy. We sure were, *palanggas*.

During cocktails, Jennie asked ABS-CBN Publishing's **Ernie Lopez** who was taking the place of **Thelma Sioson-San Juan**, the general manager and editorial director of the publishing group. He answered, "There's no one who can ever take her place." And *moi* said Amen to that!

This popular hotel is conveniently located in the center of the city and is within easy access to key business areas. It has shuttle service almost all day long to popular commercial districts and shopping malls. It is also only 30 minutes away from Mactan International Airport.

Got a tour of the hotel and found out it has 561 eye-catching luxurious rooms and newly renovated executive suites. The hotel's motto, "Bring some splendor to your slumber," is so right. The bed *moi* slept on was the posh "Slumber Splendor Bed," dahlings; it is made of a premium pillow top and mattress set, with 300 thread-count cotton duvet. For a dash of class, it has six goose dozen pillows, which is also available in all the deluxe rooms and suites.

Great dining

Après each show, we would have lunch and dinner at the hotel's awesome restos, such as La Gondola, where you dig into Italian chef **Vito Froio**'s excellent dishes; Mizu, which offers the best Japanese cuisine whipped up by the talented Japanese chef **Ken Imamura**; and the *tres* famous Chinese restaurant Tin Gow, where the brilliant Chinese chef **Low Yuen Kong** lords over the kitchen. I'll even have to say, it's one of the best in Cebu, dahlings. Uno is where we'd all dash to breakfast and lunch because it has a superb choice of international cuisines, served on buffet tables.

The grand gala evening saw the fabulous Sposabella Bridal Show, which had the huge ballroom of the hotel packed with over 1,000 awesome guests.

My favorites were the stunning bridal gown of **Oj Hofer** and that by **Monique Lhuillier**, which had tons in the audience standing up and taking photos of it with their cameras and cell phones.

Also among the most photographed bridal

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DENNIS Lustico, Randy Ortiz, Jojie Lloren, Waterfront Hotel's Marco Protacio, Jing Monis and Anthony Nocom

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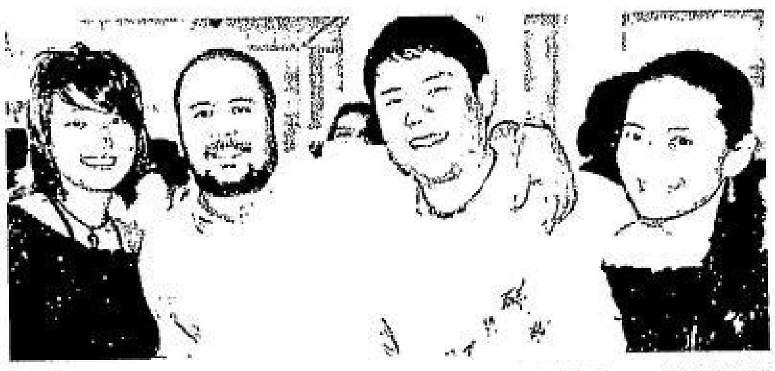
ynamic GM Marco Protacio, Olive

LANI Osmeña, Joy Onglatco with daughter Danessa O., and Shieny Yu

TERESIN Mendezona, Rosebud Sala, Annabelle Luym and Bernie Aboitiz

star city

BUSINESS tycoon Michel Lhuillier with Alfred Xeres Burgos of Monterrazas de Cebu



PAM Osmeña with Pazu Eteve; Man-man and May Osmeña

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gowns were **Jun Escario's** *tres* chic gown, **Rajo Laurel's** eye-catching creation, and **Randy Ortiz's** slinky glam bridal gown. The three-day showing was fabulously directed and staged by **Jackie Aquino**, *natch*.

Après the show, the guests would usually flock to the Treff Bar,, which is the favorite hangout of the city's society set.

It's cozy, with an al-fresco sitting area and the best DJ playing the latest hot tunes of today and yesteryears. It is absolutely the place to be seen in.

As for shopping *palanggas*, there's a Duty Free outlet in the hotel. Not bad, huh!

At the end of the three-day Samsung Style Watch at the Waterfront Hotel, the man who conceptualized the whole thing was all smiles. Also all smiles was the woman whose brainchild, the Metrowear fashion series, had become a tremendous happening for a couple of years now in *Cosmo-Manille* and Cebu. They were none other than the Waterfront's GM Marco Protacio and ABS-CBN Publishing's Thelma Sioson-San Juan, who is moving on and and opening another exciting chapter of her colorful life, *palanggas*.

For more info on Waterfront, call marketing manager, **Kaye Luym**, and **Renne Villasin** at 2326888 loc. 8032; or e-mail k.luym@waterfronthotels.net

WATERFRONT's Janine de Padua with Cebu's loss and *Manille*'s gain, Cacay Moras

GINA Osmeña and Manny Osmeña

JANE Ong with *moi*

LOUIE Cruz and James Jao

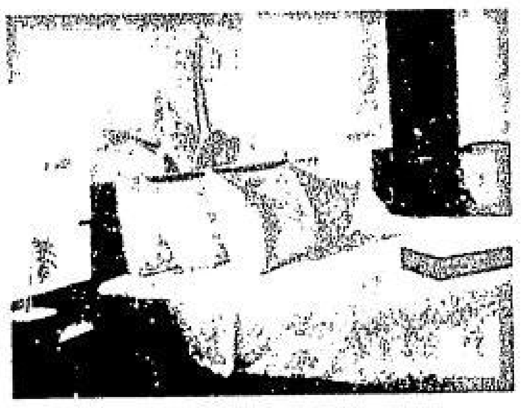
MARISSA Fernan with fab couple Maricar and Alfred Xeres Burgos Jr.

CHINESE Chef—Tin Gow: Low Yuen Kong

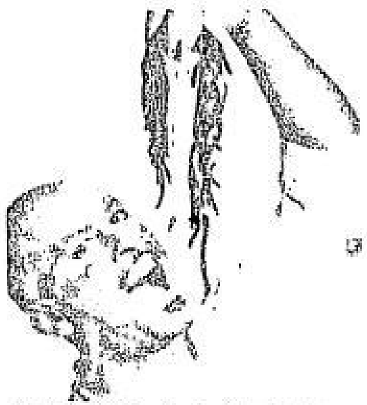
JAPANESE Chef—Mizu: Ken Imamura

THE HOTEL'S popular Italian Restaurant, La Gondola

PASTRY Chef Gabriel Garcia



WATERFRONT Hotel's posh Slumber Splendor Bed



ITALIAN Chef—La Gondola: Vito Froio

EXECUTIVE Chef Anders Hallden

It's time to avoid Trans Fat!
It's time to get healthy! It's time to be aware that some of the most common food you eat have something very bad for you: Trans Fat.

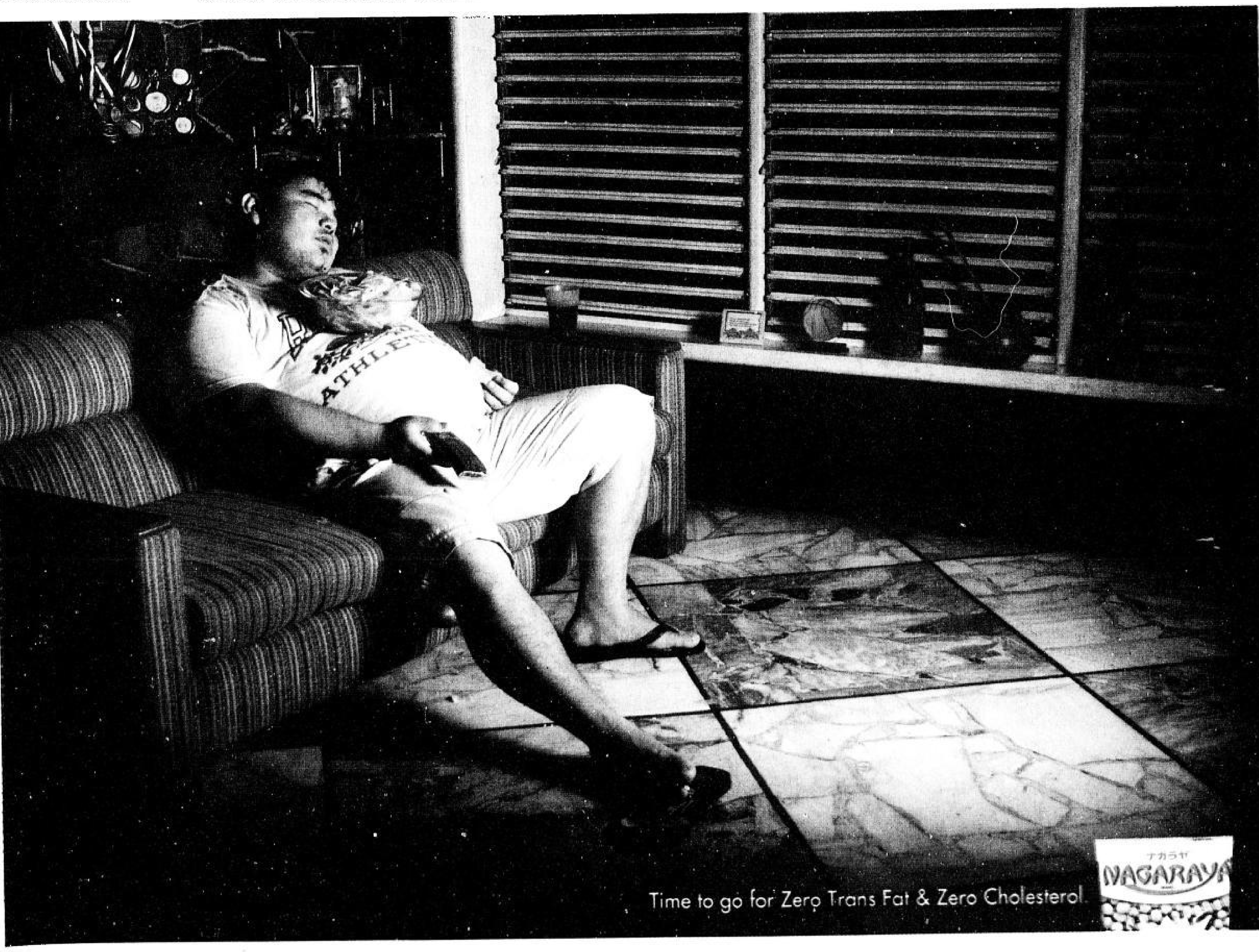
What is Trans Fat?
There are four kinds of fats: monounsaturated fat, polyunsaturated fat, saturated fat, and Trans .Fat. Monounsaturated fat and polyunsaturated fat are the "good" fats. Saturated fat is the "bad" fat people have long been warned to avoid. Trans Fat however is the worst kind of fat.

Proven Unhealthy
From the World Health Organization to the U.S. Food and Drug Authority, „there have been many recent warnings about the health problems Trans Fat can cause. In an article published in the New England Journal of Medicine on April 13, 2006, the researchers detail evidence linking Trans Fat consumption to increased risk of coronary heart disease, sudden cardiac death, and diabetes. Trans Fat from partially hydrogenated oils have harmful effects on blood lipids, promote inflammation, and cause blood-vessel abnormalities, all of which are risk factors for heart disease.

Common Foods with Trans Fat
The majority of Trans Fat can be found in snack foods, crackers, fried fast food, doughnuts, and other processed foods made with or fried in partially hydrogenated oils.

Try to avoid Trans Fat as much as you can. Read the labels of the packaged food you buy. Look at the ingredient list. Don't eat any product which has the words "partially hydrogenated" or "shortening" on the ingredient list.

Go for Zero Trans Fat
Look for products that say they are "Zero Trans Fat", like Nagaraya Cracker Nuts. Unlike other snack foods that are fried in partially hydrogenated fat, Nagaraya is roasted. This longtime favorite snack guarantees only crunchy goodness and nutrition...with none of the bad Trans Fat.


ATHLE
Time to go for Zero Trans Fat & Zero Cholesterol.
NAGARAYA

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Anna Bayle: On success and the 'X-Factor'

The first Filipina supermodel flies in from her home base in New York to impart modeling and life lessons to the remaining participants of the 'Be Bench Model Search'

WHAT IS THE "X-FACTOR"?

In the hit reality TV show "Be Bench Model Search," the term comes up almost every week.

The first TV reality search of its kind, "Be Bench Model" aims to find the next big endorser for the label Bench.

Supermodel Anna Bayle has flown in from New York to mentor the remaining participants in the search and conduct a special seminar on modeling.

She will show the finalists what it takes to be a supermodel on Sept. 9, 10:30 p.m., over at ABS-CBN.

Bayle attributes the "X-Factor" to desire.

"If you do want to be a star, you will have the aura of a star. I succeeded because I wanted it most—because I had desire," she says.

Bayle first shot to fame in the 1980s as one of the world's top models, after only two years in the business.

"I always liken the so-called X-Factor to that circle around that person—what you may call aura—that says 'look at me.' Some people are genetically blessed, but without desire, inner beauty, inner star quality, the looks will amount to nothing. X-Factor is all about desire," says Bayle.

In her prime, Bayle stood out in a sea of blondes, brunettes and redheads, not to mention the blue- green- and hazel-eyed.

"It was both a liability and an asset," she says about looking different. "But with everything, there are always pros and cons. You just have to make the most out of the situation."

Bayle landed high-profile jobs and soon became one of the highest-paid models of her time, gracing international campaigns for major fashion brands and being photographed by top lensmen, including the late Helmut Newton.

Today, she is busy producing her show, "The Next Anna Bayle," and writing for fashion sites, including her own blog, annabayle.com. She still models occasionally for select projects.

Bayle says those aspiring to become models should realize that modeling, though often perceived as glamorous, is hard work.

"It's a lot like going to school. You have to be on time, professional, and in great form, with very good skin and hair. Caring for your body is another form of discipline all models should have."

The model should always aim to please, says Bayle. She advises all models to have grace, which, when manifested in shoots, easily translates to great pictures.

"A model's movements on the runway or a photo shoot must be fluid," she points out. "Fluid movements, like walking elegantly on a catwalk, capture the eye of the audience. It's also easier for the photographers to shoot a model with fluidity because they can anticipate your next move."

"This concept is the same in a photo shoot. Jerky movements are a gamble because the shot may or may not turn out to be great," she continues. "A photo shoot is an exercise in control. A model who has graceful movements in front of the camera, making graceful lines with her body, makes it so much easier for the photographer to capture a great picture."

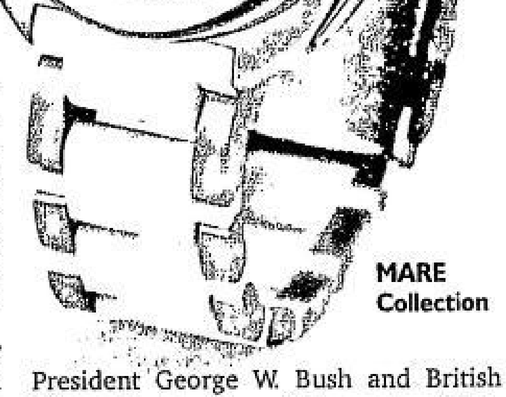
Getting the perfect shot, perfecting angles, and becoming a real model takes time and a lot of practice.

Winners of the "Be Bench The Model Search" Grand Finals will each receive cash prizes, modeling contracts with Bench, management contracts with ABS-CBN, and two two-bedroom house-and-lot units at St. Monique Valais courtesy of Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corp.

MARE Collection

LATIN Lover Collection

Telling time, the Italian way



MARE Collection

LOCMAN WATCHES CATER TO UPmarket fashion-conscious consumers in search of new, exclusive products and avant-garde designer accessories. Locman stands well away from tradition yet bears top-quality handmade finishing.

Founded by Marco Mantovani in 1986, Locman Italy first designed watches for other brands before taking off on its own. Based in Tuscany on the Island of Elba, the Locman Group represents the most important enterprise of the Italian watch-making industry. Locman also has a network of offices in Florence, Milan and New York.

The company was the first to place diamonds on aluminum, igniting the diamond-embellished sports watch trend. Locman Collections are favored by famous celebrities such as Sir Elton John, Oprah Winfrey, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Madonna, Michael Jordan, Brad Pitt, Elizabeth Taylor, Sharon Stone, Barbara Walters, Janet Jackson and Paris Hilton, to name a few.

Locman watches are also worn by sports icons such as David Beckham and Juventus' head coach Fabio Capello. During the 2002 Nato-Russia Summit held in Rome, Locman watches were chosen by Italy's Prime Minister Silvio Berluscone as gifts for the delegates. United States President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair received Locman Aluminum Sports watches.

Get these spectacular timepieces at Rafael Jewellery, 2/L Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Call 6363398.

HANNAH Sison

JP ERVAS

PHOTOS BY LUCKY BES

Season of eye-catchers

JO-AN Dorotheo

CRIS LOMOTAN AND BAMBA José emerged winners of Style Eye Catchers Model Search Grand Finals Season 1 held at Glorietta 3 Park recently.

Ten males and 10 females competed in swimwear, casuals and formal wear in front of a special panel of judges that included fashion director Robby Carmona, Style Magazine editor Jonas Gruet, MTV Fashionista Best Model of the World winner Raphael Kiefer, L'Oreal Paris' chief makeup artist Jigs Mayuga, comedian/fashionista I.C. Mendoza, actress Alessandra de Rossi, Century Tuna Superbodz 2007 winner Patty Ortega and The Agencie president Laura Sanchez.

The search was sponsored by Style Magazine, United Colors of Benetton, Sisley, Gas, The Agencie, The Casting Library, Antonov, GSM Blue, L'Oreal Professionnel, Eclipse 24/7, Make Up For Ever, Glorietta Ayala Malls, Rob Altamirano Photography, Monster Radio RX 93.1, and Hit 99.5 FM.

For details on how to join Season 2, visit Style's website, www.styleonefashion.multiply.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

INSIDE

Sex, boat shoes and open bars in Venice Only in Hollywood/G4

Kuh's home a museum of sorts Home Body /H1

Iya, *very* Filipina

By Marinel R. Cruz

DESPITE HAVING GROWN up in Australia, actress-TV host Iya Villania insists that she is "very Filipino-fashioned" when it comes to love.

At 21, Iya says she is not keen either on living in or on tying the knot anytime soon with TV host Drew Arellano, 27, her boyfriend of three years.

"I'm too young. I still have a lot to learn and so much to do," Iya told INQUIRER Entertainment over lunch last week. "I may have lived in Australia but it was in Blacktown, a conservative community where lots of Filipinos live."

Iya's dad and two sisters are based in Australia; her mom chose to join her here.

Dean's lister

Apart from her show biz commitments, Iya is busy studying Psychology at De La Salle University, where she's been on the dean's list for the last two terms.

"I'm fascinated with the power of the human mind. It intrigues me," Iya says.

She's keenly interested in subjects like clinical, abnormal and social psychology. "I was amazed to discover all these extreme mental illnesses. I even took time to research on the condition called dissociative identity disorder (DID)."

Iya is one of the busiest ABS-CBN stars. Aside from being MYX Music Channel's resident VJ, she is also a co-host of the Sunday noontime show "ASAP" and the celebrity dance program "U Can Dance" with Derek Ramsay. Iya shares hosting chores with Chesca Garcia and Angel Aquino in Studio 23's magazine/lifestyle show "Us Girls."

This month, Iya will be seen in "Mars Ravelo's Lastikman," as Yellena, lead actor Vhong Navarro's lady love.

SHEDDING CLOTHES, ETC.

ALESSANDRA de Rossi is shedding some of her personal possessions, including clothes, via an online celebrity auction for charity starting Sept. 10. "I'm glad my personal items will help other people," the TV-film actress says. The items include a watch, accessories, shoes and an unused ice cream maker. All the items will be posted on the website www.auction.ph from Sept. 10-24.

45 years

Metrobank

First Metro Travel offers full range travel services

The past couple of years have been challenging for the Philippines travel industry. For the past five years, the number of inbound visitors has languished around the 2 million mark - far fewer than some of its competitors in Southeast Asia. In 2002, for example Malaysia and Thailand welcomed 24 million travelers.

Despite the dip in tourist numbers, one travel agency, First Metro Travel has been constantly developing products and services to cater to the growing needs of the traveling public. Among its travel services being consistently offered to its customers are the Corporate Travel Management that handles the full travel requirements of corporate accounts, Foreign & Domestic Leisure Travel that provide individual group tour packages, and Travel Documentation that provide assistance and various types of travel documentation requirements. First Metro Travel put up branches in Ortigas Center, Los Baños, Laguna and Cebu City to make the availment of its services more accessible.

Sixty percent of First Metro Travel is owned by Metrobank, the country's largest bank in terms of resources.

45 years

Metrobank

Trading Stocks Online through www.firstmetrosec.com.ph

Late last year, First Metro Securities launched its online trading system, highlighting its user-friendly interface with Metrobankdirect online banking.

The company envisioned the system to be an additional service for the few internet savvy clients interested in managing their own investments and trading online.

Almost a year into the launch, the company reports overwhelming demand, with new enrollments streaming in and retail volumes expanding by the day.

Why are investors going online and flocking to www.firstmetrosec.com.ph?

First of all, the stock market is hot. Internet usage is expanding. And online Trading is empowering.

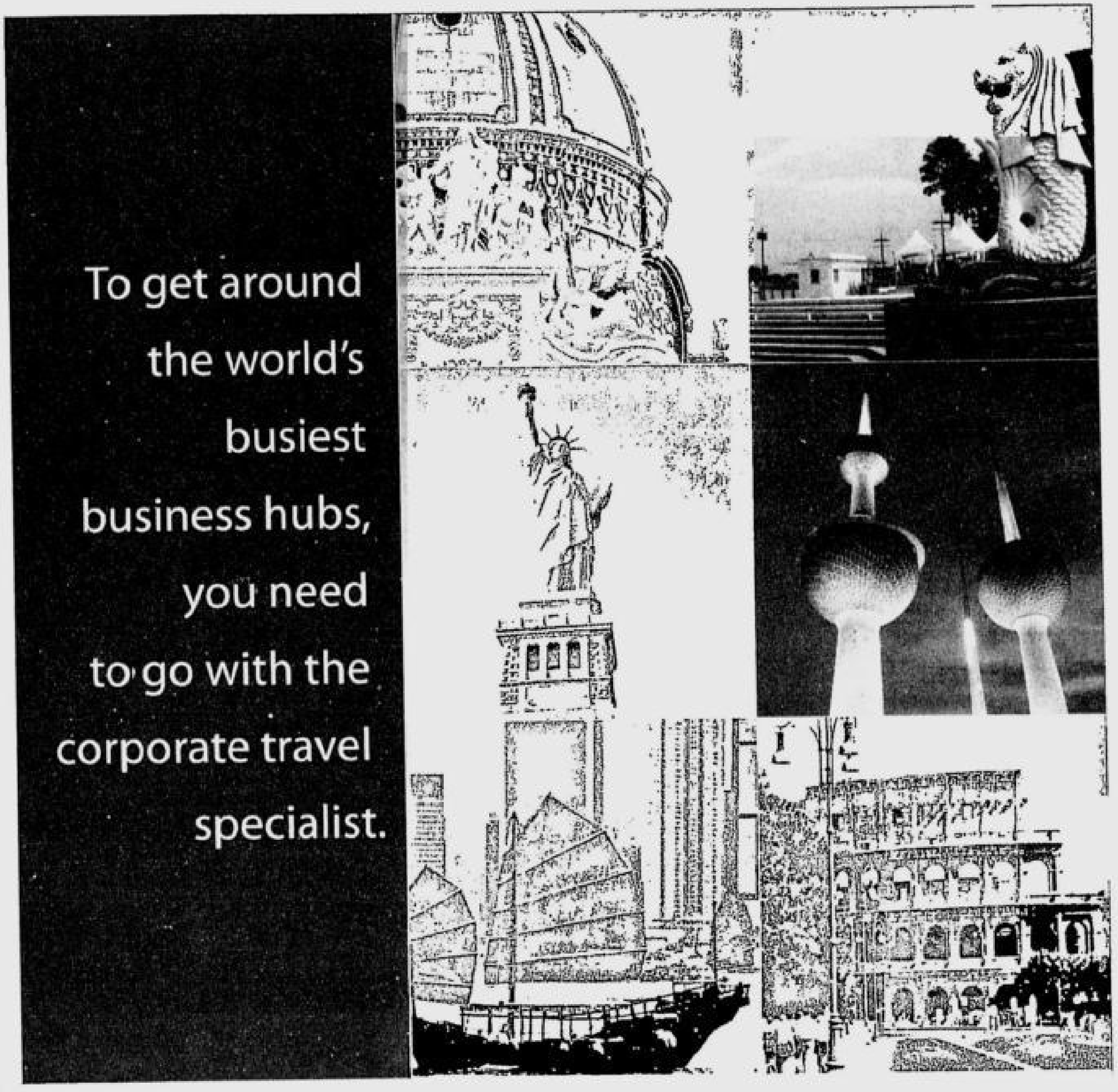
It provides clients with the same, if not more stock information, than a broker on the trading floor. Prices are displayed practically as quickly as on the trading floor screens.

The typical First Metro Securities online client is 37 years old, male, internet literate, and with the skills, interest and aptitude to personally take charge of his own stock market investments.

The most senior client is 72 years old and female. The youngest so far is 20. Clients are based as far away as Canada and Riyadh. They come from Bahrain, Hong Kong, Singapore, Leyte and Pagadian.

The allure of First Metro Securities is multi-faceted. The company is a member of the Metrobank Group and makes a special effort to put group resources to good use for the benefit of its clients. It has been profitable every year since inception in 1994.

First Metro Securities launched a clean and simple-to-use interface, which enables clients to view price information and trade quickly.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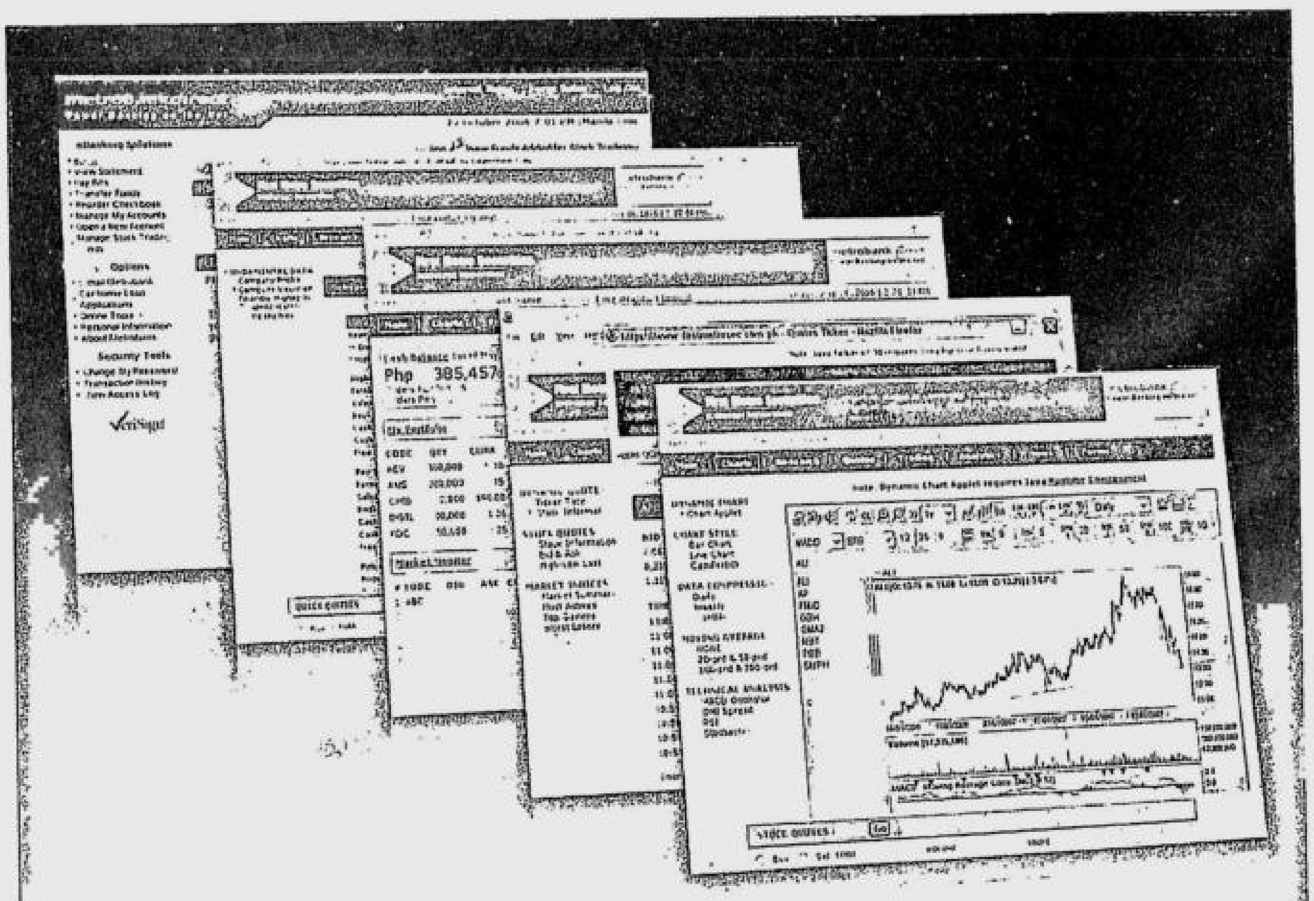

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Acel's debut album tests digital downloading market

SPIN

NUGEN MUSIC, A SUB-LABEL OF ABS-CBN's Star Records, is hyping its newly signed talent, singer-songwriter Acel (formerly of Moonstar 88) as "the country's first-ever digital artist."

What it means is that Acel's debut album, "Silver Lining," is available only through digital downloads.

ACEL

Apparently, it's a marketing strategy that encourages buying songs through the Internet and which will be attractive to consumers with a limited budget, because fans can buy on a per song basis.

It's also a move to discourage piracy, although Acel's management admits there's really no foolproof way of stopping the technological scourge.

At the moment, only two songs from the album's 12 tracks are available. "We're still testing the market," says a representative from Acel's management.

To download "Pakiusap," the lead single, get an E-pin (electronic pin) or buy Acel's specialized prepaid cards from any Loadcentral outlet or Netopia branch. Log on to www.starrecords.com.ph and use the log-in name and password provided on the e-pin/card.

HILERA

'Soundskool'

Several groups discovered via Nescafe Soundskool, a nationwide college band competition, have signed recording deals with EMI Philippines.

Hilera, first grand prize winner of "Soundskool" maiden edition, is currently promoting "Pilit" from its self-titled album that contains 12 tracks.

The band plays a tight set in its gigs and sounds heavily influenced by the likes of Green Day and other American bands that were responsible for reviving mainstream interest in punk rock.

Hilera is composed of the Padilla brothers, Chris (guitars/vocals), Bobby (drums) and Ivan Garcia (bass).

Effinboiche, the 2006 "Soundskool" champion, is working on its debut album. Fronted by a female vocalist/guitarist who has adopted the moniker Alex, the band acknowledges Bjork, Estrela, Incubus and Dream Theater as influences. The rest of the band are JC (drums, piano), Marvin (guitar) and Aljo (bass).

"Soundskool" has raised the stakes this year with the grand prize at P250,000 in cash, P150,000 worth of musical instruments and equipment for the winning band's school, and a recording contract with EMI Philippines.

The contest is open to all unsigned bands with three to five members aged 16 to 26 and currently enrolled in a college or university. They must be Filipino citizens or have resided in the country for at least a year. For details on contest mechanics, log on to www.nescafe.com.ph

ZELLE

Make way for Zelle

A new Pinoy band called Zelle has released its debut album, "Search for Warmth" (Sony BMG).

Its name is taken from lead vocalist Jeazell Grutas who formed the group. The other members are Jasper Grutas (drums), Anthony Ramirez (violin), Enan Cruz (bass) and Archie Salvador (guitar).

The music of Zelle is described as alternative pop-rock; the album, which took a year to finish, contains 11 original tracks and is said to be full of passion and melancholy.

"Sabihin," the carrier cut, is about romantic loss.

'KaminAPO Muna Uli'

The 2006 APO tribute album "KaminAPO Muna" (Universal Records), which has reportedly sold 125,000 copies, has a sequel titled "KaminAPO Muna Ulit" featuring 20 artists interpreting more APO classics like "American Junk" (Kamikazee vs. Parokya ni Edgar); "Salawikain" (Mcoy Fundales of Orange and Lemons featuring The Spaceflower Show); "Awit ng Barkada" (Sponge Cola); "Princesa" (Itchyworms); "Tuyo Na'ng Damdamin" (Silent Sanctuary); "Mahirap Magmahal ng Syota ng Iba" (Hilera); "Wala Nang Hahanapin Pa" (True Faith); "Just a Smile Away" (Shamrock); "Show Me a Smile" (Imago); "Love is for Singing" (The Bloomfields); "Suntok sa Buwan" (Scrambled Eggs); "Tuloy ang Ikot ng Mundo" (Dicta License); "Syotang Pa-Class" (Radioactive Sago Project featuring Raimund Marasigan), among others.

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2 MY KUYAS WEDDING
3 RUSH HOUR - 3

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1 SINKING JAPAN
2 MASARAP NA PUGAD
3 SARIWA
4 RUSH HOUR - 3

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) SINKING JAPAN
2 TAGINIT
3 1408
4 KAPAG DUMIKIT KUMAKAPIT
5 RUSH HOUR - 3

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 MY KUYAS WEDDING
5 DAY WATCH

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 A LOVE STORY
3 RISE BLOOD HUNTER
4 RUSH HOUR - 3

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 RUSH HOUR - 3
2 EVAN ALMIGHTY
3 A LOVE STORY
4 DIN'T LOOK BACK

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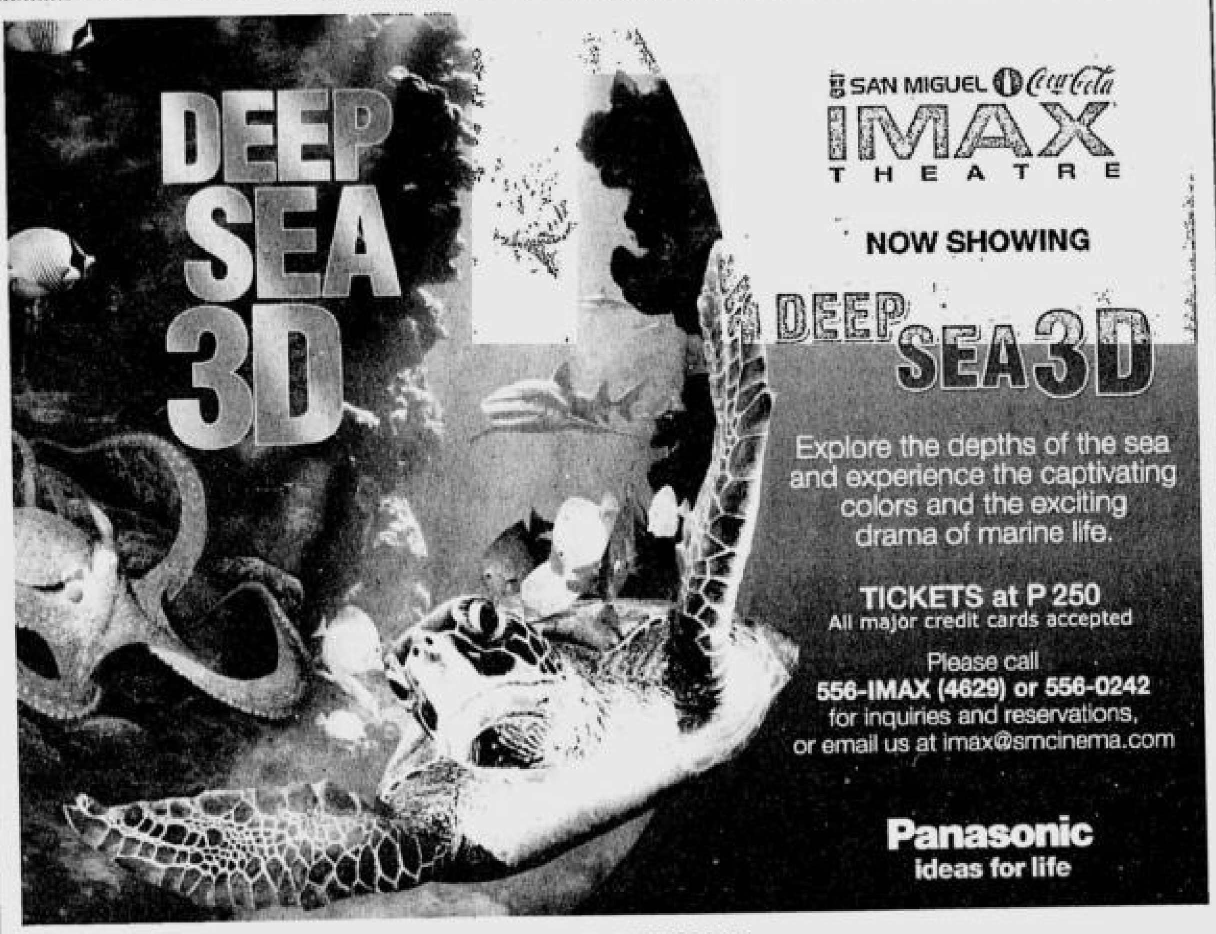

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1 DAY WATCH
2 NANCY DREW
3 1408
4 DISTURBIA
5 EVAN ALMIGHTY
6 SKINWALKERS
7 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
8 INVASION
9 CHOPSUEY
10 A LOVE STORY
11 RUSH HOUR 3
12 GANDHI, MY FATHER

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2 NANCY DREW
3 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 SKINWALKERS
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 LAST LEGION
7 1408
8 A LOVE STORY
9 EVAN ALMIGHTY
10 RUSH HOUR 3
11 DISTURBIA
12 CHOPSUEY

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 DISTURBIA
2 1408
3 NANCY DREW
4 SKINWALKERS
5 A LOVE STORY
5 EVAN ALMIGHTY
7 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
8 CHOPSUEY
9 RUSH HOUR 3
10 LAST LEGION

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 1408
2 DISTURBIA
3 SKINWALKERS
4 NANCY DREW
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 A LOVE STORY

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 DISTURBIA
2 NANCY DREW
3 1408
4 DAY WATCH
5 SKINWALKERS
6 A LOVE STORY
7 EVAN ALMIGHTY
8 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
9 CHOPSUEY

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 DISTURBIA
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 1408
4 SKINWALKERS

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SKINWALKERS
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 1408
5 NANCY DREW
6 DISTURBIA
7 CHOPSUEY
8 LAST LEGION
9 A LOVE STORY
10 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
11 DAY WATCH
12 EVAN ALMIGHTY

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
2 INVASION
3 BLADES OF GLORY
4 1408

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 1408
2 SKINWALKERS
3 INVASION
4 MY KUYA'S WEDDING

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 1408
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 SKINWALKERS
4 DISTURBIA

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 SKINWALKERS
2 CHOPSUEY
3 1408
4 A LOVE STORY
5 LAST LEGION
6 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
7 EVAN ALMIGHTY
8 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 1408
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 RISE
4 A LOVE STORY
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 SINKING OF JAPAN

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 LICENSE TO WED
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RISE

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 RISE
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 A LOVE STORY
4 SINKING OF JAPAN

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 RISE
3 OSS 117
4 1408
5 A LOVE STORY
6 MY KUYA'S WEDDING

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 A LOVE STORY
2 HAIRSPRAY
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 RISE

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 1408
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RISE

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 DAY WATCH
2 SKINWALKERS
3 DISTURBIA
4 NANCY DREW

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 A LOVE STORY
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 1408
4 INVASION

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 PLANET TERROR
3 A LOVE STORY
4 SIGNOS
5 RISE
6 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 BORDER TOWN
3 SIGNOS
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 HAIRSPRAY
2 INVASION
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 A LOVE STORY
5 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
6 EVAN ALMIGHTY
7 RESERVED
8 MY KUYA'S WEDDING

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 BLIND DATING
3 RISE
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY
5 CHOPSUEY
6 INVASION
7 A LOVE STORY
8 PLANET TERROR

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 BLADES OF GLORY
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 BORDERTOWN
4 A LOVE STORY

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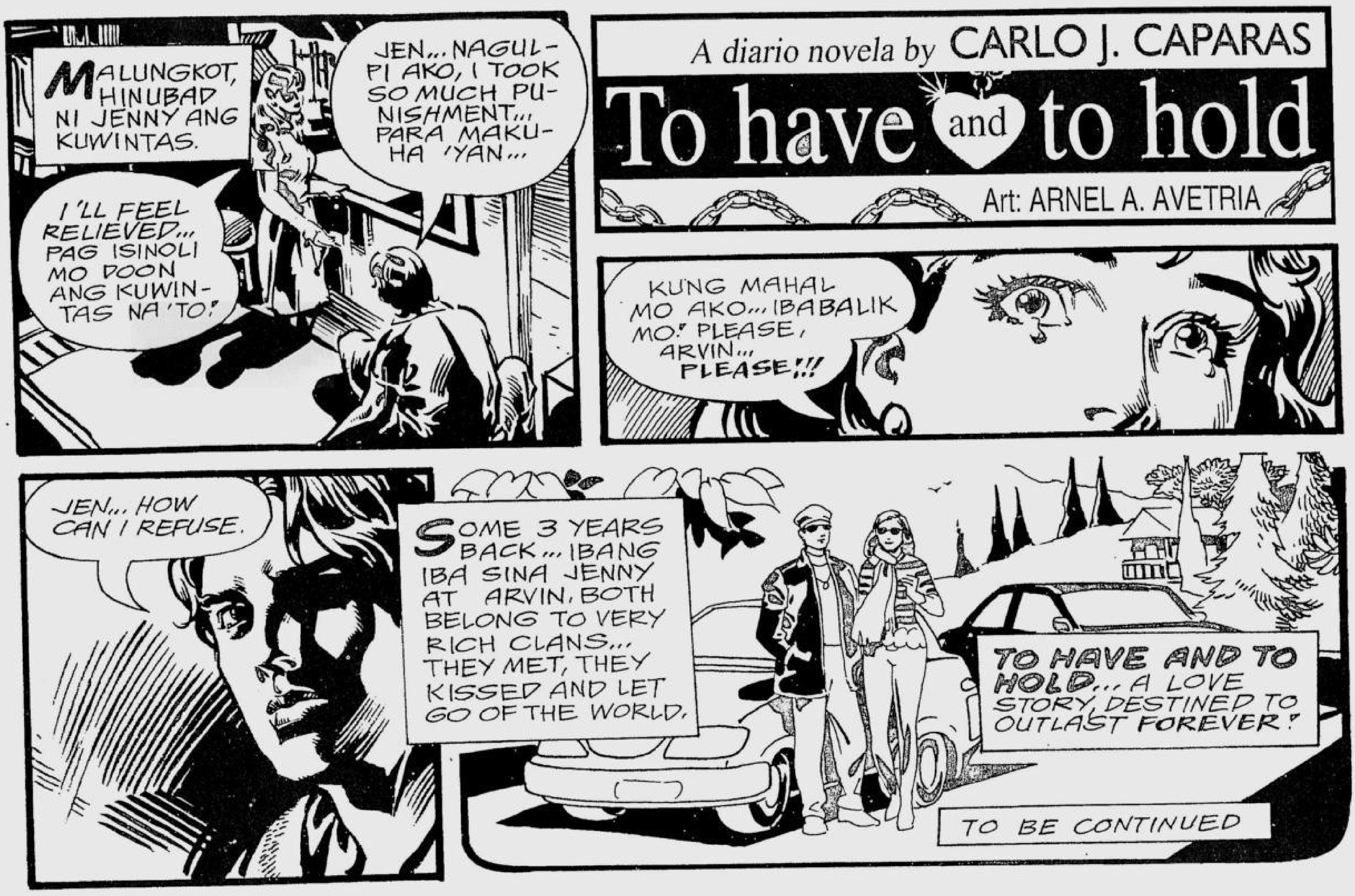
A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

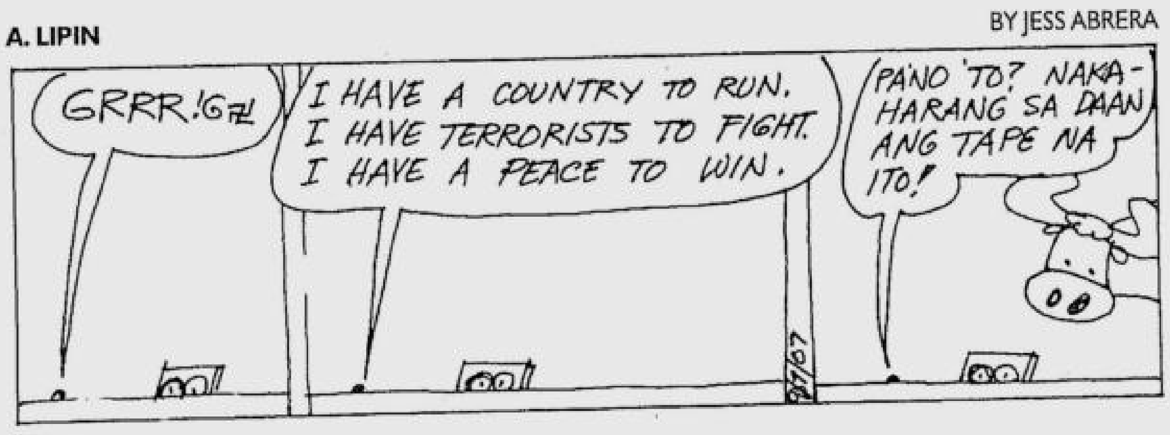
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


MALUNGKOT, HINUBAD NI JENNY ANG KUWINTAS.
JEN... NAGULPI AKO, I TOOK SO MUCH PUNISHMENT... PARA MAKUHA 'YAN...
I'LL FEEL RELIEVED... PAG ISINOLI MO DOON ANG KUWINTAS NA 'TO!
KUNG MAHAL MO AKO... IBABALIK MO! PLEASE, ARVIN... PLEASE!!!
JEN... HOW CAN I REFUSE.
SOME 3 YEARS BACK... IBANG IBA SINA JENNY AT ARVIN. BOTH BELONG TO VERY RICH CLANS... THEY MET, THEY KISSED AND LET GO OF THE WORLD.
TO HAVE AND TO HOLD... A LOVE STORY, DESTINED TO OUTLAST FOREVER!
TO BE CONTINUED

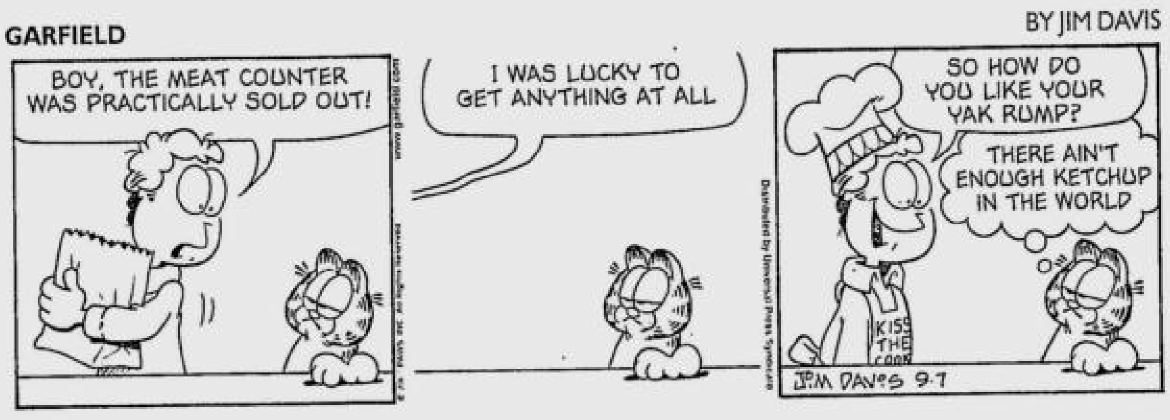
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


GRRR!
I HAVE A COUNTRY TO RUN. I HAVE TERRORISTS TO FIGHT. I HAVE A PEACE TO WIN.
PA'NO 'TO? NAKAHARANG SA DAAN ANG TAPE NA ITO!
9/7/07

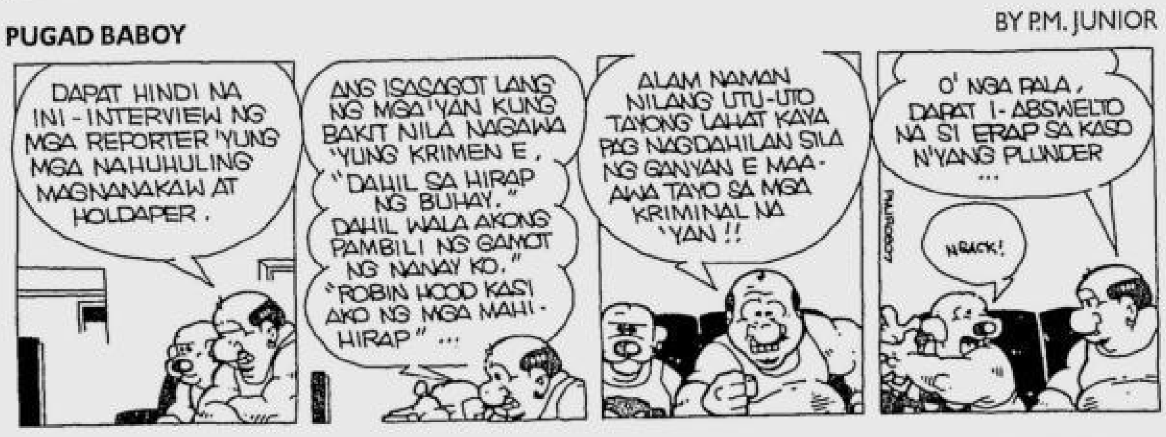
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


BOY, THE MEAT COUNTER WAS PRACTICALLY SOLD OUT!
I WAS LUCKY TO GET ANYTHING AT ALL
SO HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR YAK RUMP?
THERE AIN'T ENOUGH KETCHUP IN THE WORLD
KISS THE COOK
JIM DAVIS 9.7

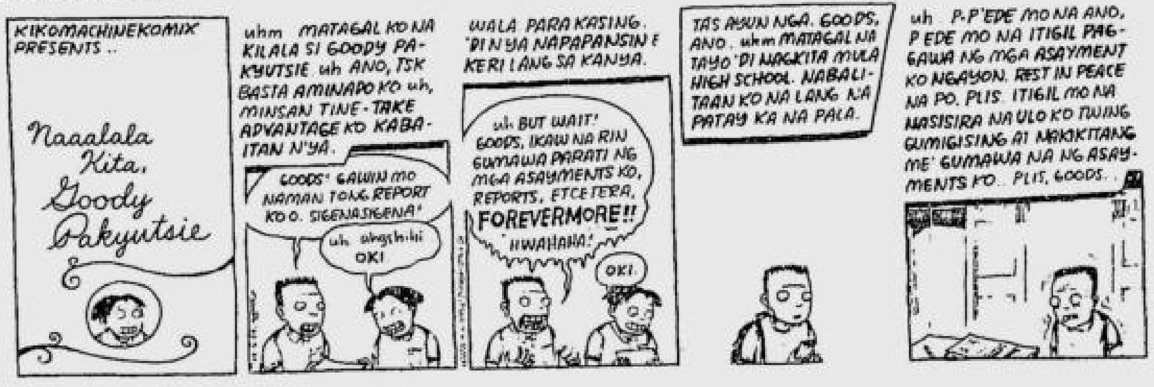
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

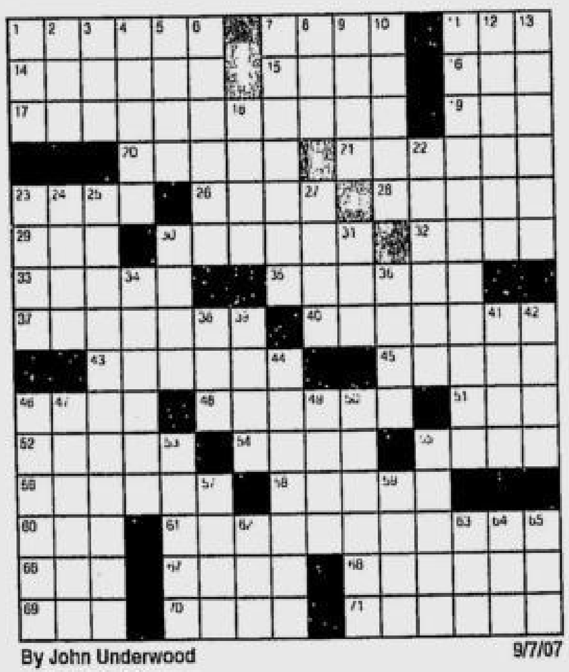

DAPAT HINDI NA INI-INTERVIEW NG MGA REPORTER 'YUNG MGA NAHUHULING MAGNANAKAW AT HOLDAPER.
ANG ISASAGOT LANG NG MGA 'YAN KUNG BAKIT NILA NAGAWA 'YUNG KRIMEN E, "DAHIL SA HIRAP NG BUHAY." DAHIL WALA AKONG PAMBILI NG GAMOT NG NANAY KO." "ROBIN HOOD KASI AKO NG MGA MAHIHIRAP" ...
ALAM NAMAN NILANG UTU-UTO TAYONG LAHAT KAYA PAG NAGDAHILAN SILA NG GANYAN E MAAAWA TAYO SA MGA KRIMINAL NA 'YAN!!
O' NGA PALA, DAPAT I-ABSWELTO NA SI ERAP SA KASO N'YANG PLUNDER ...
NGACK!

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINEKOMIX PRESENTS ..
Naaalala Kita, Goody Pakyutsie
uhm MATAGAL KO NA KILALA SI GOODY PAKYUTSIE uh ANO, TSK BASTA AMINADO KO uh, MINSAN TINE-TAKE ADVANTAGE KO KABAITAN N'YA.
GOODS' GAWIN MO NAMAN TONG REPORT KO O. SIGENASIGENA'
uh ahgshihi OK!
WALA PARA KASING. 'DI N'YA NAPAPANSIN E KERI LANG SA KANYA.
uh BUT WAIT! GOODS, IKAW NA RIN GUMAWA PARATI NG MGA ASAYMENTS KO, REPORTS, ETCETERA, FOREVERMORE!! HWAHAHA!
OK!
TAS AYUN NGA. GOODS, ANO. uhm MATAGAL NA TAYO 'DI NAGKITA MULA HIGH SCHOOL. NABALITAAN KO NA LANG NA PATAY KA NA PALA.
uh P-P'EDE MO NA ANO, P'EDE MO NA ITIGIL PAGGAWA NG MGA ASAYMENT KO NGAYON. REST IN PEACE NA PO. PLIS. ITIGIL MO NA NASISIRA NA ULO KO TUWING GUMIGISING AT NAKIKITANG ME' GUMAWA NA NG ASAYMENTS KO.. PLIS, GOODS.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By John Underwood
New York, NY

ACROSS
1 LeGuin or Andress
7 Gangster's gal
11 IL metropolis
14 Fourteen-line poem
15 NYC theatrical award
16 Lady lobster
17 Grow up!
19 Ernie of the PGA
20 Botanical puffiness
21 Chowderhead
23 January honoree
26 __ a one (none)
28 Brimless hat
29 One from Madrid
30 Pointed arch.
32 Kind of roast
33 Use a divining rod
35 "__ Five-O"
37 Rude
40 Woodworking tools
43 Early mainframe
45 Wood shaper
46 Against
48 Increased suddenly
51 Give permission to
52 Bring up
54 Laura or Bruce
55 Old assents
56 Be present at
58 TV sound
60 Short life?
61 Grow up!
66 Letters of debt
67 Fencer's weapon
68 Perspicacious
69 Aardvark tidbit
70 Ownership document
71 MGM lion, e.g.

DOWN
1 Ship letters
2 Decompose
3 Winter ATV, __-Cat
4 Dismantle mortise joints
5 Wanton
6 Greek goddess
7 Sovereign
8 Kimono sash
9 The Swedish Nightingale
10 On the up-and-up
11 Grow up!
12 Light gas
13 Foot part
18 Somali supermodel
22 Pat of "Happy Days"
23 African antelope
24 Party to
25 Grow up!
27 Twelve months
30 Pants-maker Strauss
31 Tango team
34 Gary of "Apollo 13"
36 "__ Lang Syne"
38 ER hookups
39 Extol
41 Syngman of Korea
42 Hardens
44 Made
46 Saudi _
47 Country
49 Eats
50 Make lovable
53 Finished
55 Trunk artery
57 Info
59 Should that be the case
62 Born, in Paris
63 "Over There" cont.
64 Sault __ Marie
65 "And I Love __"

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

C	H	A	R	M	■	P	A	P	E	R	■	M	A	L
R	U	P	E	E	■	A	B	A	T	E	■	O	N	E
T	H	E	S	E	C	R	E	T	O	F	■	R	O	T
■	■	■	T	R	E	A	T	S	■	■	K	R	I	S
W	H	I	S	K	E	D	■	■	B	A	A	I	N	G
E	A	R	■	A	S	E	C	R	E	T	I	S	T	O
A	L	I	S	T	■	■	H	U	R	L	S	■	■	■
N	E	S	T	■	J	T	U	R	N	■	E	T	A	L
■	■	■	E	A	G	E	R	■	■	A	R	E	N	A
K	N	O	W	W	H	E	N	A	N	D	■	A	I	M
R	E	P	E	L	S	■	■	C	E	D	I	L	L	A
O	P	E	D	■	■	O	S	C	A	R	S	■	■	■
N	A	N	■	H	O	W	T	O	T	E	L	L	I	T
O	L	E	■	O	N	E	L	S	■	S	E	E	K	S
R	I	D	■	G	O	D	O	T	■	S	T	E	E	P

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9/7/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have the interesting combination of being solid, practical and productive, and yet at the same time, restless and adventurous! You're very sensitive and idealistic. Your business know-how can help you to help others. In your mid-40s, you will begin to explore a deeper meaning to life. The year ahead is the perfect year to learn something valuable.
Birthdate of: Michael Emerson, actor; Jacques Lemaire, hockey player/coach; Julie Kavner, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a great day to end the week. You're in party mode, and you want to have fun. Romantic flirtations are promising!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is the perfect time to entertain at home or enjoy family gatherings. Conversations with family members, especially a parent, will be important and satisfying.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a busy day for you. Short trips, errands, reading, writing and studying plus shopping will keep you on the run. Remember to stop and take a breath.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might be in the mood for some power shopping today. Your focus is on cash flow, earnings and money. Make friends with your bank account.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): The Moon is in your sign today. This makes you a bit more emotional than usual; however, it also brings you a little bit of extra good luck. Enjoy!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You need a little privacy and a bit of relaxation. Try to carve some time out just for yourself. Hide somewhere for a little while if you can.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a wonderful day to schmooze with friends and groups. Enjoy the company of others. Sports, romance, the theater and the arts are all good choices. Rent a movie.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might do something that calls attention to you today. Just be aware of this. Discussions with bosses, parents and authority figures could figure prominently

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Try to do something different today. You're in the mood for some adventure. You also want to learn something new. Go someplace you've never been before

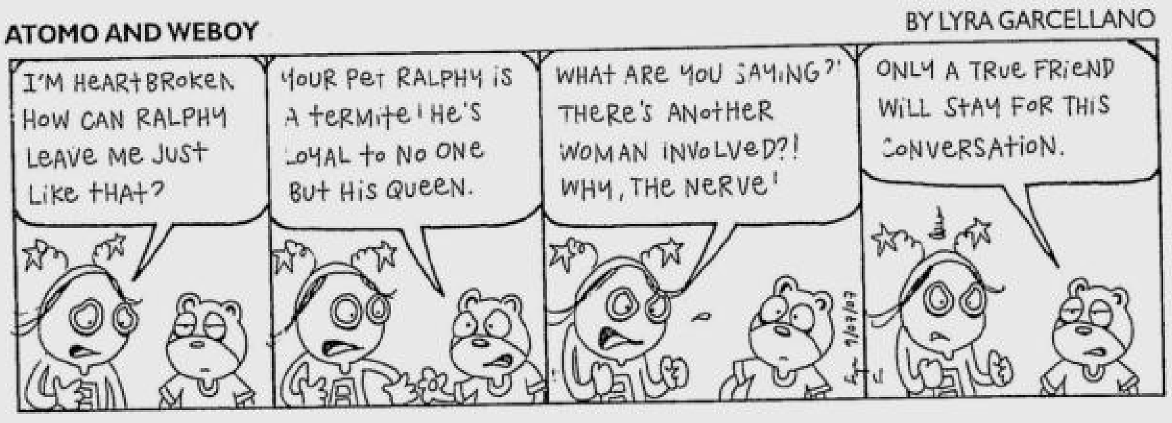
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You feel a bit intensely about practically everything today. If you're working, you will have great powers of concentration. And if you're trying to have fun, you'll succeed!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Because today's Moon is opposite your sign, you will have to go more than halfway when dealing with others, especially partners and close friends. Be polite; listen to what people have to say.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're in work mode today! You want to get a lot done. Be calm with co-workers. Don't take anything personally. People are just trying to do their job—just like you.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I'M HEARTBROKEN. HOW CAN RALPHY LEAVE ME JUST LIKE THAT?
YOUR PET RALPHY IS A TERMITE! HE'S LOYAL TO NO ONE BUT HIS QUEEN.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! THERE'S ANOTHER WOMAN INVOLVED?! WHY, THE NERVE!
ONLY A TRUE FRIEND WILL STAY FOR THIS CONVERSATION.
9/07/07

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	7	3				5	4	
			3	6	2			
	6			3			8	
	3		6		4		2	
	5			9			1	
			4	1	9			
	1	8				6	5	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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9/07

Answer to previous puzzle

6	3	2	7	1	5	8	9	4
8	5	9	6	3	4	2	7	1
4	7	1	2	8	9	3	5	6
1	9	5	4	2	3	7	6	8
3	2	6	9	7	8	4	1	5
7	4	8	5	6	1	9	3	2
9	8	4	1	5	7	6	2	3
5	6	7	3	4	2	1	8	9
2	1	3	8	9	6	5	4	7

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Sex, boat shoes and open bars

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

VENICE, ITALY—"WHY THE heels?"

George Clooney jokingly chided **Tilda Swinton** when he arrived Friday last week at the Excelsior Hotel for a late breakfast chat and saw his co-star, statuesque on barefoot, wearing what she called her "boat shoes."

George stooped down playfully to exaggerate Tilda's towering height.

Tilda's term for her platform shoes was apt for this place renowned for its canal waterways. The two actors play adversaries in "Michael Clayton," their legal thriller entry in the ongoing film festival here.

George, Tilda and **Tom Wilkinson** are compelling in this film. We told George—who plays a top-notch New York lawyer who "fixes" his moneyed clients' problems—that, as an actor, he probably lives for moments in scenes like where he goes *mano a mano* with Tilda and Tom. "No, they live for those moments with me," he countered in typical jesting manner as he poured more tea in his cup. "Yes, I definitely live for those moments."

"Michael Clayton," which shows how far a top multinational corporation will go to deal with a legal crisis, manages to be both entertaining and socially relevant.

Then we went down Excelsior's famous private dock, where the stars board luxurious water taxis to get to their official gala screenings. We boarded one, an oasis in white leather and wood panel, to go to the Hotel Cipriani, which is another Venice landmark. Upon arrival, we sipped Bellinis and admired the much-photographed Venetian water landscape while waiting for the arrival of the director and stars of the fest's opening night film, "Atonement."

When the group arrived, we sat down for lunch and a chat, first with the great actress **Vanessa Redgrave** and director **Joe Wright**, and then, after switching tables, **Keira Knightley and James McAvoy**. In "Atonement," an adaptation of **Ian McEwan's** novel, Keira and James play lovers whose fate is impacted by a false accusation made by a young girl, **Briony Tallis**. The part is portrayed with remarkable skill by **Saoirse Ronan** (who was 12 at the time of the filming), and then by **Romola Garai** and Vanessa as the character ages.

Spiritual quality

Vanessa, beautiful, radiant and a wonderful example of how actresses should age gracefully, was gracious in disposition as well. She was genuinely curious about how Joe cast her, Romola and Saoirse. Did he pick Saoirse first and then proceeded from there? Vanessa was all ears when Joe confirmed that, yes, he cast Saoirse first and then searched for the actress who will play the character in her later years. He explained that in choosing Romola and Vanessa, he went more for their spiritual or inner quality likenesses to Saoirse.

Keira, in a dark green dress with a matching knitted jacket, admitted that she lobbied for her role, Cecilia. Joe had wanted her to play Briony instead.

We think Keira should gain some weight, though. She is starting to look as disturbingly skinny as **Nicole Richie**.

James' character sends the wrong note (a vulgar one) to Keira's Cecilia in this film set in the 1930s and '40s. The actor, who has gotten big roles since his break-out performance in "The Chronicles of Narnia," told us that in this cyberspace age, he has not committed the embarrassing mistake many have already made—sending an incriminating e-mail to the wrong person.

Shedding inhibitions

We lingered on Cipriani's dock and admired the postcard-pretty lagoon view before we boarded another water taxi that took us back to Lido and to Hotel Des Bains, which was memorably filmed in **Luchino Visconti's** "Death in Venice." In one of the stately rooms, we met director Ang Lee and his "Lust, Caution" cast. Actor **Tony Leung** arrived first and was immediately greeted with a round of "congratulations!" from the journalists for his portrayal of an intelligence chief in World War II-era Shanghai.

With a scarf jauntily wrapped around his neck, the acclaimed Hong Kong actor revealed what made him shed inhibition and all his clothes in the movie's explicit sex scenes: "When you are in character, you are not shy." **Tang Wei**, Tony's partner in these graphic montages, said that having only Ang and the cameraman on the set also helped.

When we asked co-writer and co-producer **James Schamus** who came up with all those sexual positions that Tony and Tang show onscreen, he answered with a sly grin, "They were all from Ang's imagination."

"Ang does not make the actors comfortable," James said of his friend and creative collaborator. "He does not think that actors are effective when they are comfortable."

"MICHAEL Clayton" co-stars George Clooney and Tilda Swinton in Venice

AFP

Ineffectual translation

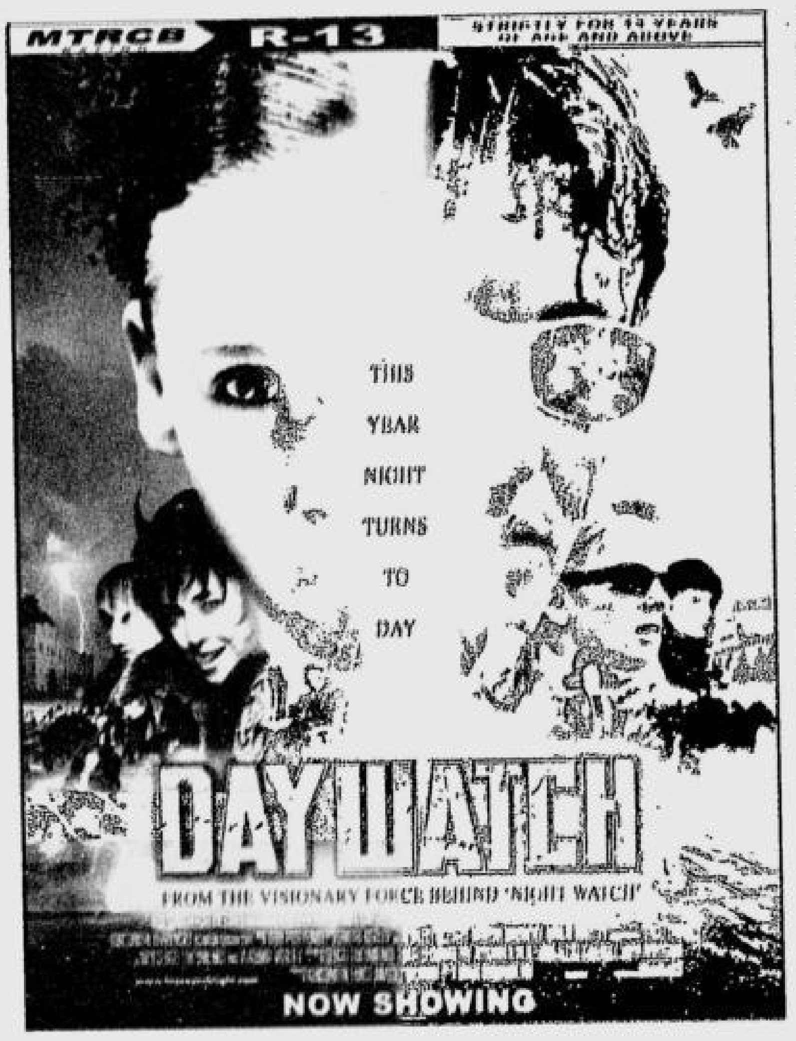
When we told James how slow and frustrating it was to follow the proceedings of the film's official press con the previous day because of the ineffectual English translation, he laughed and agreed. James joked that Ang gave a long and eloquent answer to a journalist's question at one point and yet all the translator could offer by way of translation was, "Me so horny."

In the evening, we crossed the lagoon again and returned to Cipriani, a sight to behold as we approached by boat. Candles cast a soft, golden glow in a dock-front hall that was booked for the dinner party following the official screening of "Michael Clayton."

At our table, **Paul Haggis**, who directed the Oscar Best Picture winner, "Crash," said that he was writing the script of the next James Bond movie. He is in town for his in-competition entry, "In the Land of Elah."

Bill Murray, one of the guests which included **Richard Gere**, directors **Spike Lee** and **Ridley Scott**, was asked to give a toast. Flashing his "Lost in Translation" smile and looking at the night's honoree, George Clooney (with his latest model date beside him), Bill gamely stood up and said, "I have no business speaking here tonight. but every time I come to Venice, I have always gotten into trouble with George. I like to thank the people of Venice for keeping the water out of my room. The bar is open! **Harvey Weinstein** is paying!"

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.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GLORIETTA 1	1 CHOPSUEY	2 DISTURBIA	3 NANCY DREW	4 A LOVE STORY			
GLORIETTA 4	1 DAYWATCH	2 SKINWALKERS	3 THX DISTURBIA GUARANTEED SEATS	4 ARE WE DONE YET?	5 THE INVASION	6 NANCY DREW	7 1408
GREENBELT 1	1 DAYWATCH	2 NANCY DREW					
GREENBELT 3	1 THX NANCY DREW GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX DISTURBIA GUARANTEED SEATS	3 HAIRSPRAY GUARANTEED SEATS	4 EVAN ALMIGHTY GUARANTEED SEATS	5 DAYWATCH GUARANTEED SEATS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX DISTURBIA	2 NANCY DREW	3 DAYWATCH	4 THE INVASION	5 SKINWALKERS		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 PAN'S LABYRINTH	2 PLANET TERROR	3 RISE	4 THE INVASION			
MARKET! MARKET!	1 CHOPSUEY	2 SKINWALKERS	3 NANCY DREW	4 DISTURBIA	5 DAYWATCH		
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 EVAN ALMIGHTY	2 SKINWALKERS	3 DAYWATCH GUARANTEED SEATS	4 NANCY DREW GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CHOPSUEY	6 1408	7 THX DISTURBIA GUARANTEED SEATS

AT THE MALLS

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Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala

glorietta	Overseas Korean Traders Association Exhibit September 7 to 9, 2007 at the Activity Center
GREENBELT	Jazz Nights September 12, 2007 at GB 2 Al Fresco
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Anson's Exhibit September 1 to 16, 2007 at the Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live! September 26; 6 PM; OnStage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	Lactum Mall Show September 8 & 9, 2007 at the Activity Center
Greenbelt 1 Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids at REP's Globe Theater - Opens August 11, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
Ayala MUSEUM	Antiqueños: Homage to my Kasimanwas August 28 to September 10, 2007 For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
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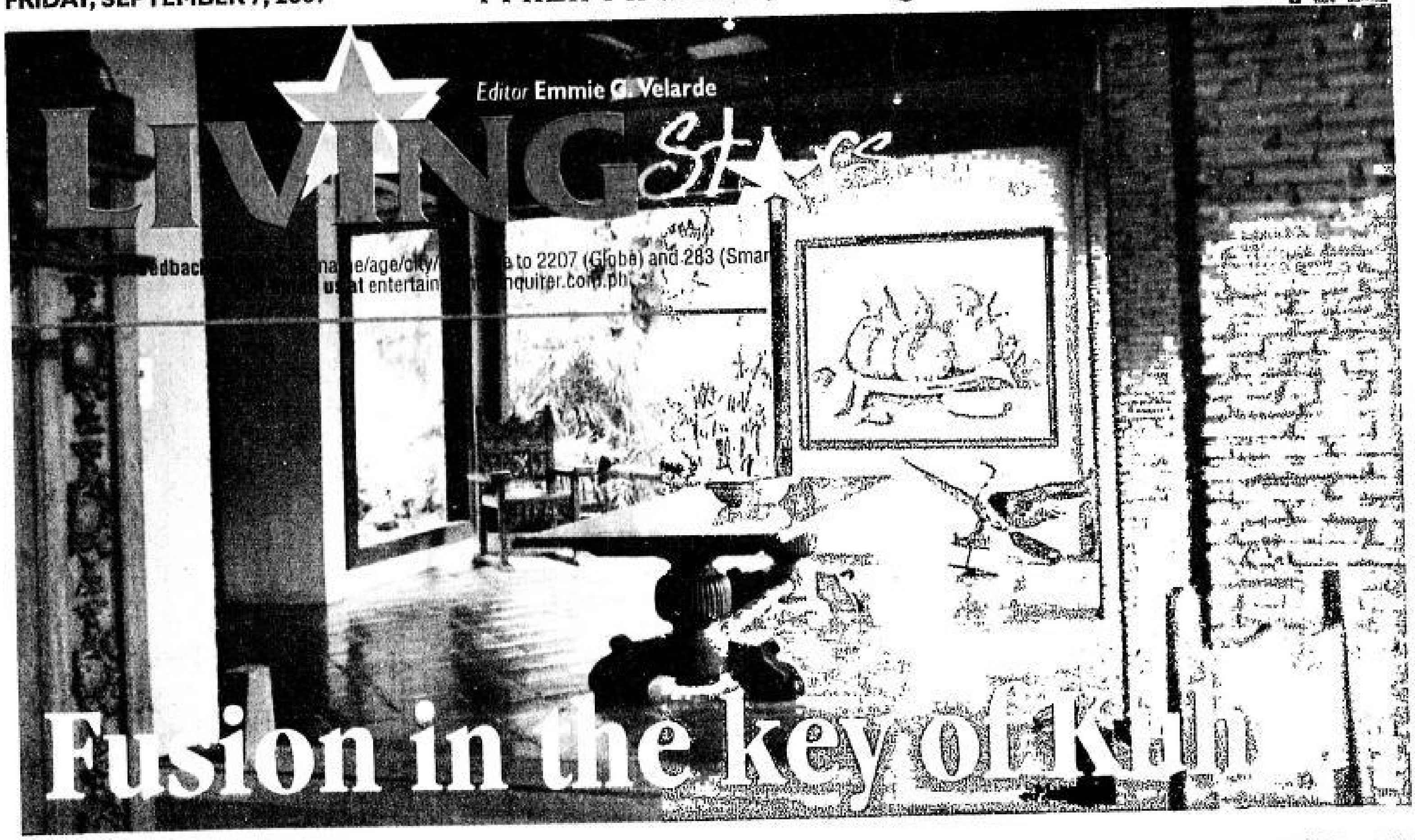


LIVING Stars
Editor Emmie G. Velarde
edbac name/age/city/ to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smar
us at entertain inquirer.com.ph

Fusion in the key of Kuh

Singer's home is a veritable museum of art and antiques

HOME BODY

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

The home of singer Kuh Ledesma in Pasay City is a museum of sorts.

Daughter Isabella, who dabbles in painting, describes the house as a haven for artists.

Pieces by Isabella—and other painters—are strewn all over the place.

Former movie billboard painter Miong Babatuan and son Yeye have painted murals in the home.

"They make replicas of [19th-century Filipino folk artist] Damian Domingo's paintings of rural scenes, as well as portraits of Filipinos in *baro't saya*," Kuh relates.

Since Mang Miong and Yeye are no longer busy doing movie billboards, Kuh has taken them in. "They drop by when they don't have work," she says. "We try to find something for them to do. Sometimes I call my friends and ask if they'd like some good paintings."

"This is an artists' community," Isabella adds. "Carpenters, painters, furniture makers and gardeners get to do their work here."

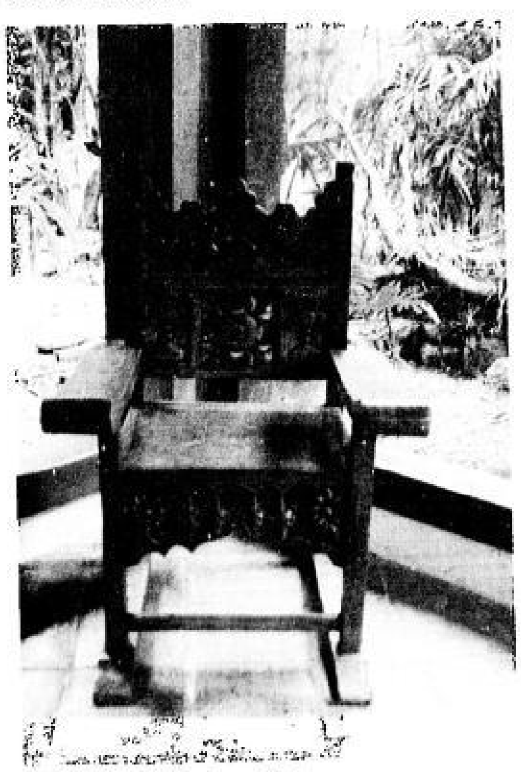
Kuh describes the interiors as, "Fusion, but Filipino at heart."

She has gathered antique pieces from all over the country, plus a few from neighboring Asian countries. (There's a door knocker from Bali.)

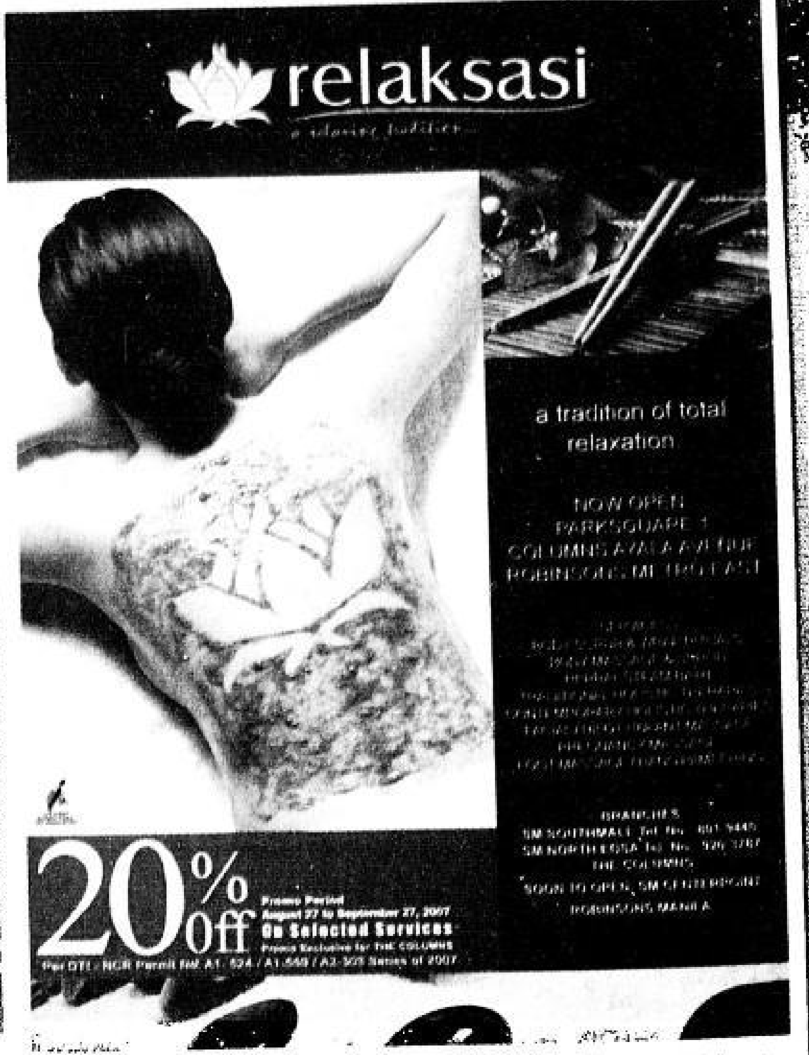
Antique pieces from the Visayas adorn

FUSION/ H4

RECORDING star has made her home a haven for artists. PDI FILE PHOTO



BISHOP'S chair from Cebu



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2 DISTURBIA 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	7 CHOPSEUY 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
3 indieSine:TRIBU 12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00	8 A LOVE STORY 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45
4 DAYWATCH 12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00	9 SKINWALKERS 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
5 NANCY DREW 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50	10 1408 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

ERMITA

1 DISTURBIA	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00
2 CHOPSEUY 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	5 A LOVE STORY 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
3 1408 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	6 DAY WATCH 11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00
4 NANCY DREW 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	7 SKINWALKERS 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

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2 A LOVE STORY 12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10	6 THE INVASION 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:00
3 SKINWALKERS 11.10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10	7 DISTURBIA 11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
4 1408 11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10	8 NANCY DREW 11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

NOVALICHES

1 DISTURBIA 2 A LOVE STORY	3 NANCY DREW 4 CHOPSEUY

PIONEER

1 NANCY DREW 12:05 2:1[illegible] 4:25 6:35 8:40	3 SKINWALKERS 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30
2 DISTURBIA 1:45 4:05 6:25 8:45	4 DAY WATCH 12:25 3:10 6:55 8:40

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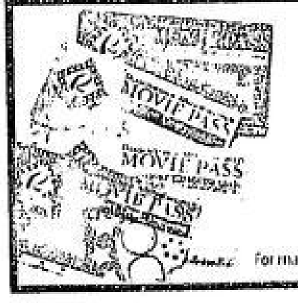

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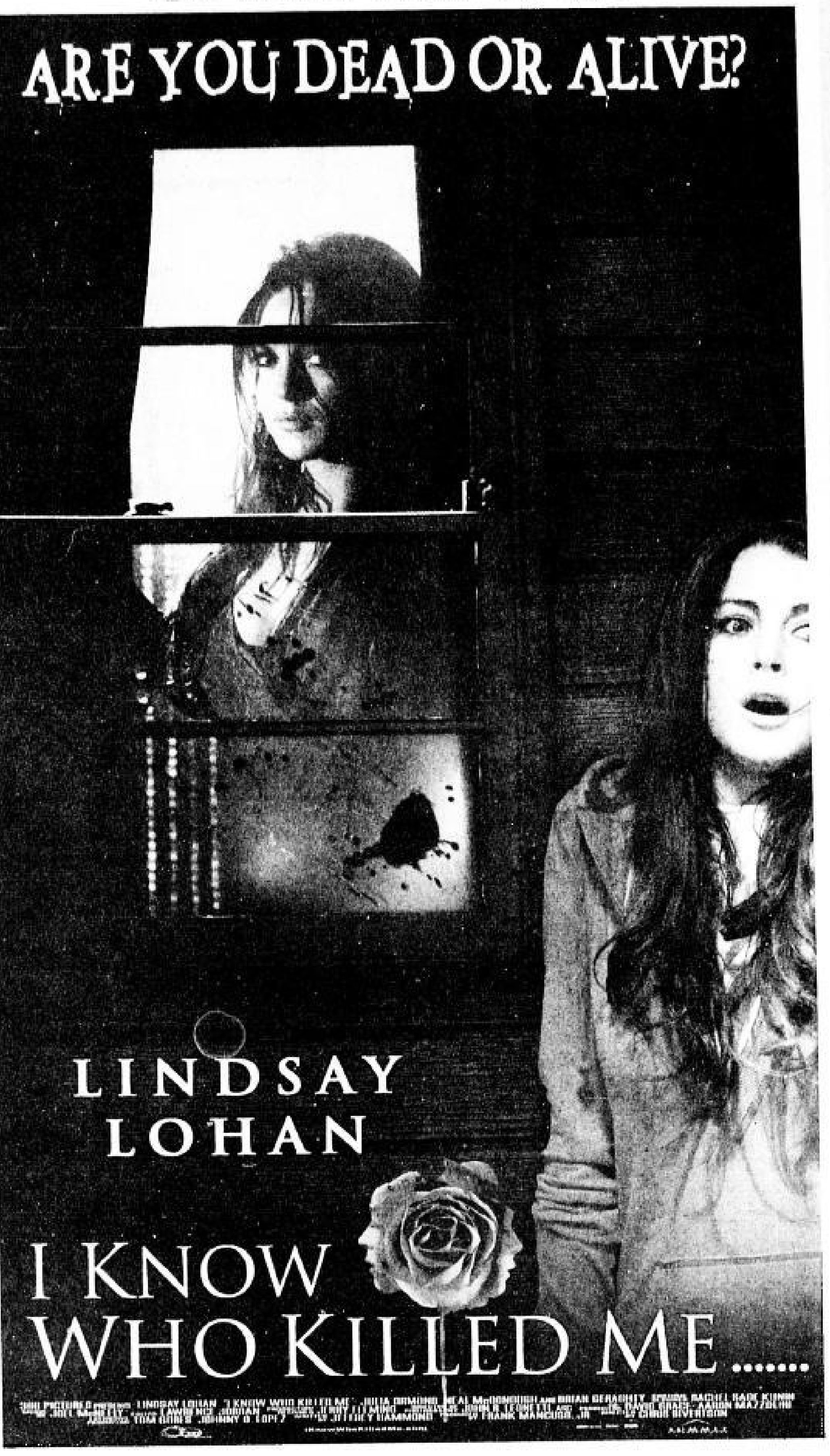
INA FELEO
The area near the pool is where the whole family spends most of our time together. It's breezy and cool, surrounded by plants. sit here, listen to my iPod or read. Sometimes, I bring my laptop here and write. The place gets my creative juices flowing.

OPENS SEPT. 12



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LAST LEGION 1408 12:15 - 4:55 / 9:50	SKINWALKERS 1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50	RUSH HOUR 3 12:50 / 2:50 / [illegible]	
THE INVASION 1:10 / 5:30 / 9:50	WAITRESS 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50 A LOVE STORY 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40	EVAN ALMIGHTY 3:20 / 7:40 HAIRSPRAY 4:50 / 9:30	NANCY DREW 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00

Ali MALL 5

1 DISTURBIA 11:40 / 1:55 / 4:10 / 6:25 / 8:40	2 CHOPSUEY 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30	3 NANCY DREW 11:50 / 2:05 / 4:20 / 6:35 / 8:40
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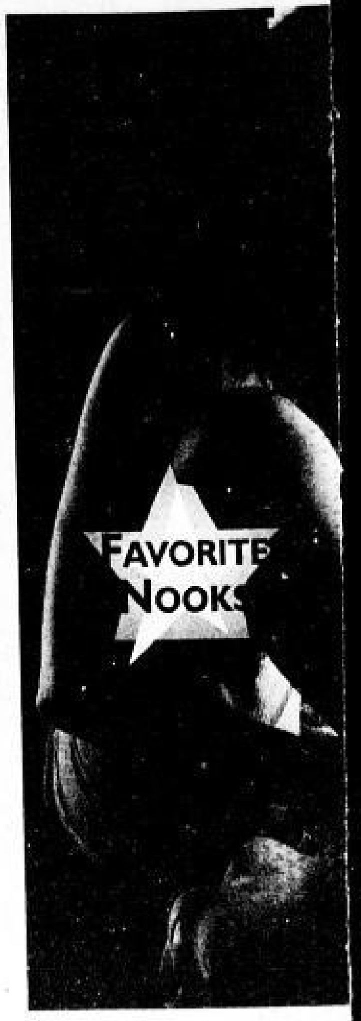


KRIS BERNAL
My one-year-old pug Happy ju
why she had to stay with a fri
She had four pups, but three
vivor Lucky. Happy and her p
delivered, Happy slept with m
the village for her regular exe
cited to cuddle up. She's ve
though they look sad and to
sorts of accessories and costu

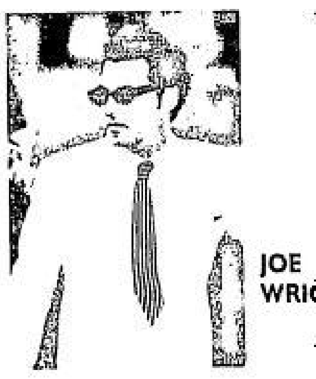
KEIRA KNIGHTLY REUTE

Atonement preem in London, September 4

RICHARD Gere with his wife Carey Lowell AFP

VANESSA REDGRA REUTE

JAMES MCAVOY AFP



JOE WRIG

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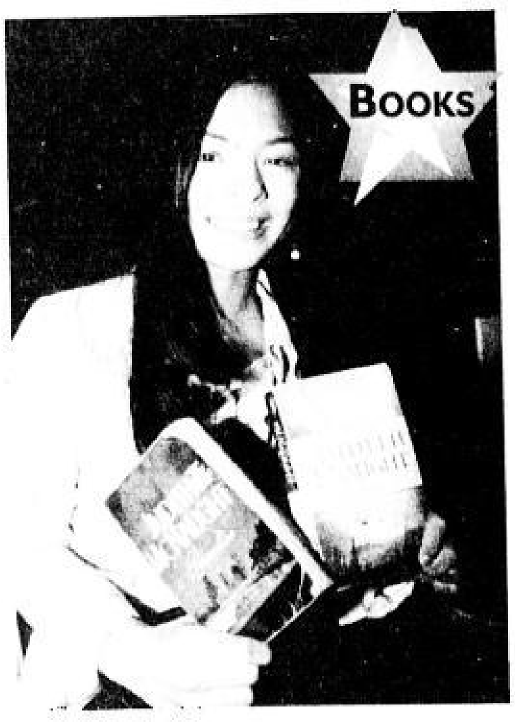
If my parents and sister are not around, I just

Marinel R. Cruz

AUGUST DELA CRUZ



LOVI

I love Judith McNaught's "Paradise" and "Perfect." I usually read books by Dan Brown, or Paulo Coelho. But my friend Mikki introduced me to Judith's books. I wept buckets over "Paradise." All of a sudden, she was my favorite. "Paradise" is about a rich girl who falls in love with a poor boy. "Perfect" tells the story of a Hollywood actor who escapes from jail and holds a school teacher hostage. Judith's novels help me with drama scenes [on "Zaido"] or when I sing emotional songs. *Bayani San Diego Jr.*

PHOTO BY REM ZAMORA

st gave birth by Cesarean section. That's
nd of mine, who took care of her 24/7.
ied. I'm planning to name the lone sur-
uppy are now back with us. Before she
e in my room. I also walked her around
cise. When I get home, she's always ex-
affectionate. I love the face of pugs,
igh, Happy's super sweet. I buy her all
nes, too.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

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THE INVASION PG13 1:00,3:15,5:30, 7:45,10.00	SKIN WALKERS R18 1:40,3:50,6:00, 8:10,10:20	DISTURBIA PG13 12:35,2:55,5:15, 7:35,10:20

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CINEMA 5 NANCY DREW 12:55, 3:10, 5:25 7:40, 10:00 GP

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Sept. 21, 28, 2007	Drag - Ons	10:00 PM
Sept. 12, 19, 26, 2007	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

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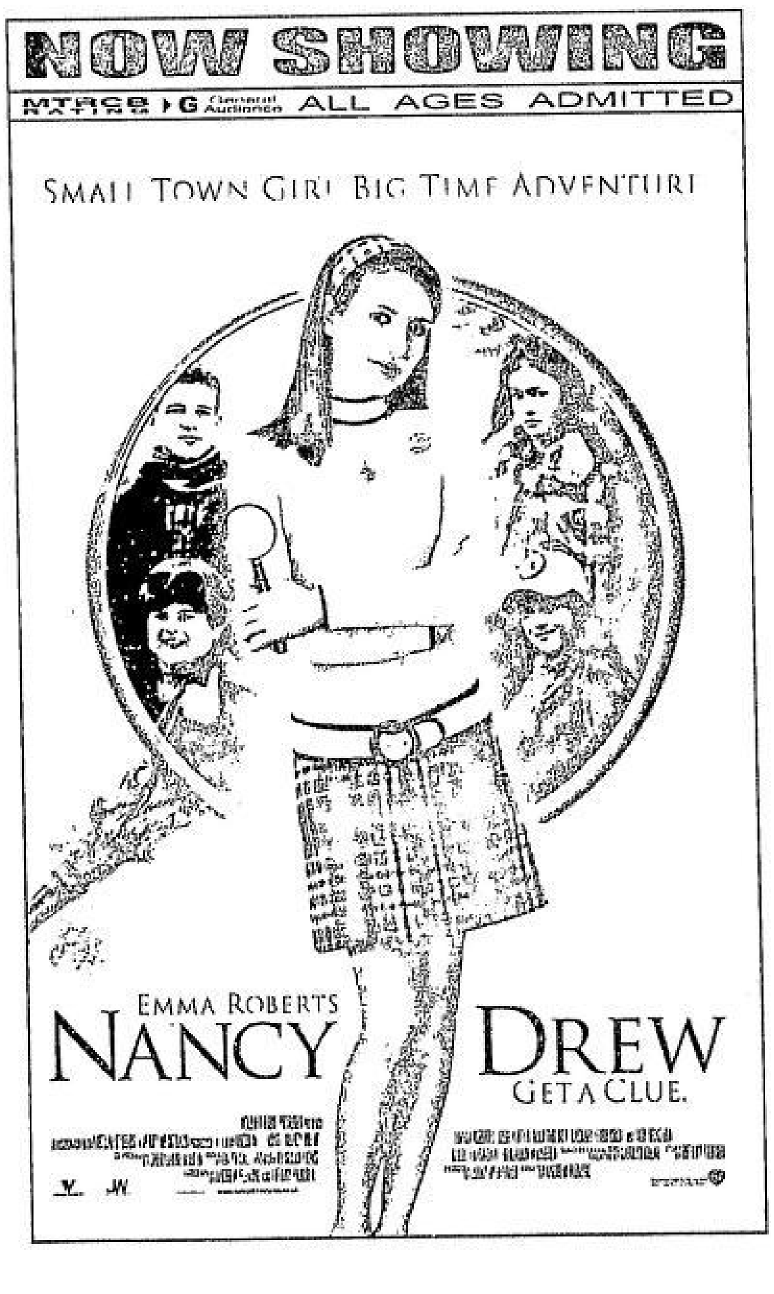

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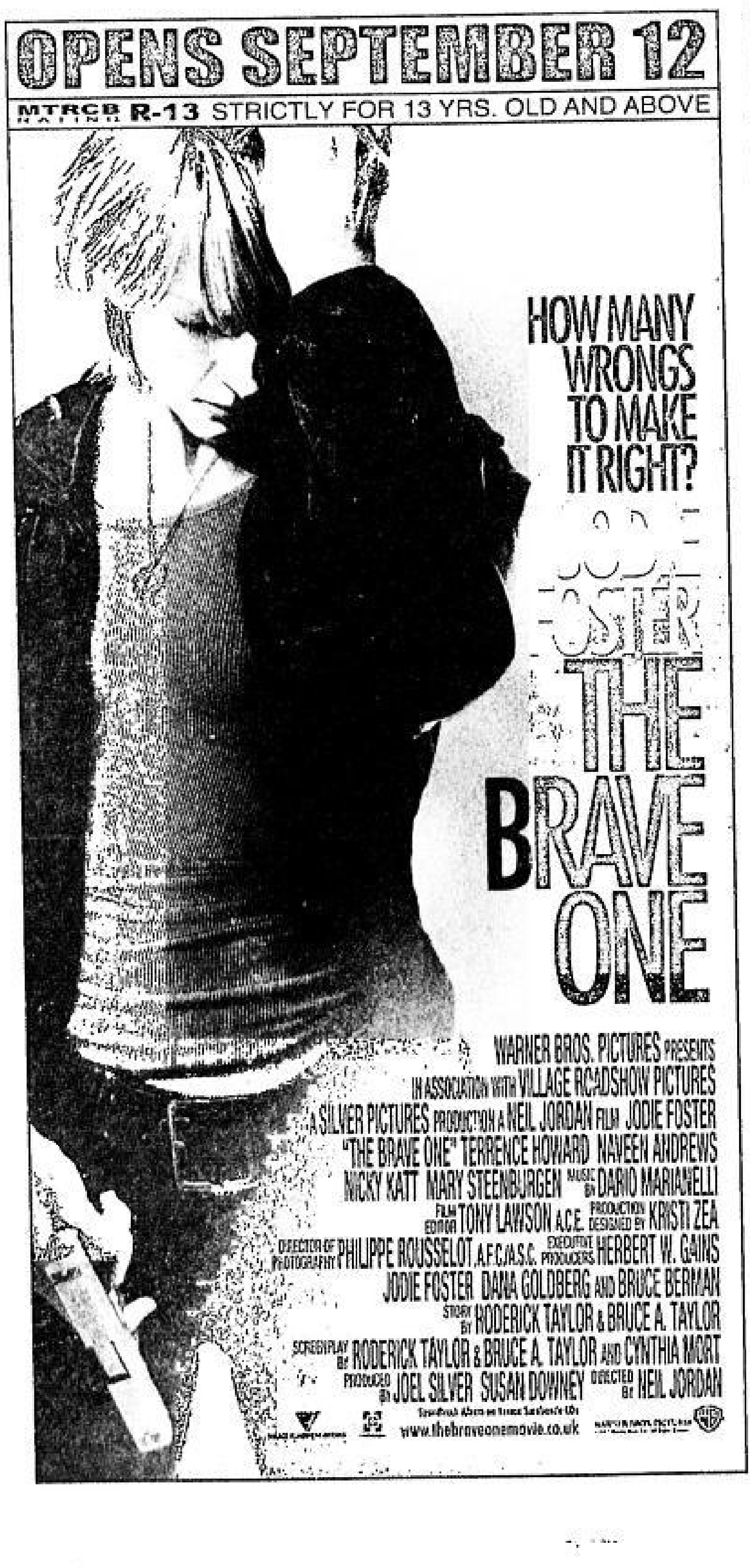

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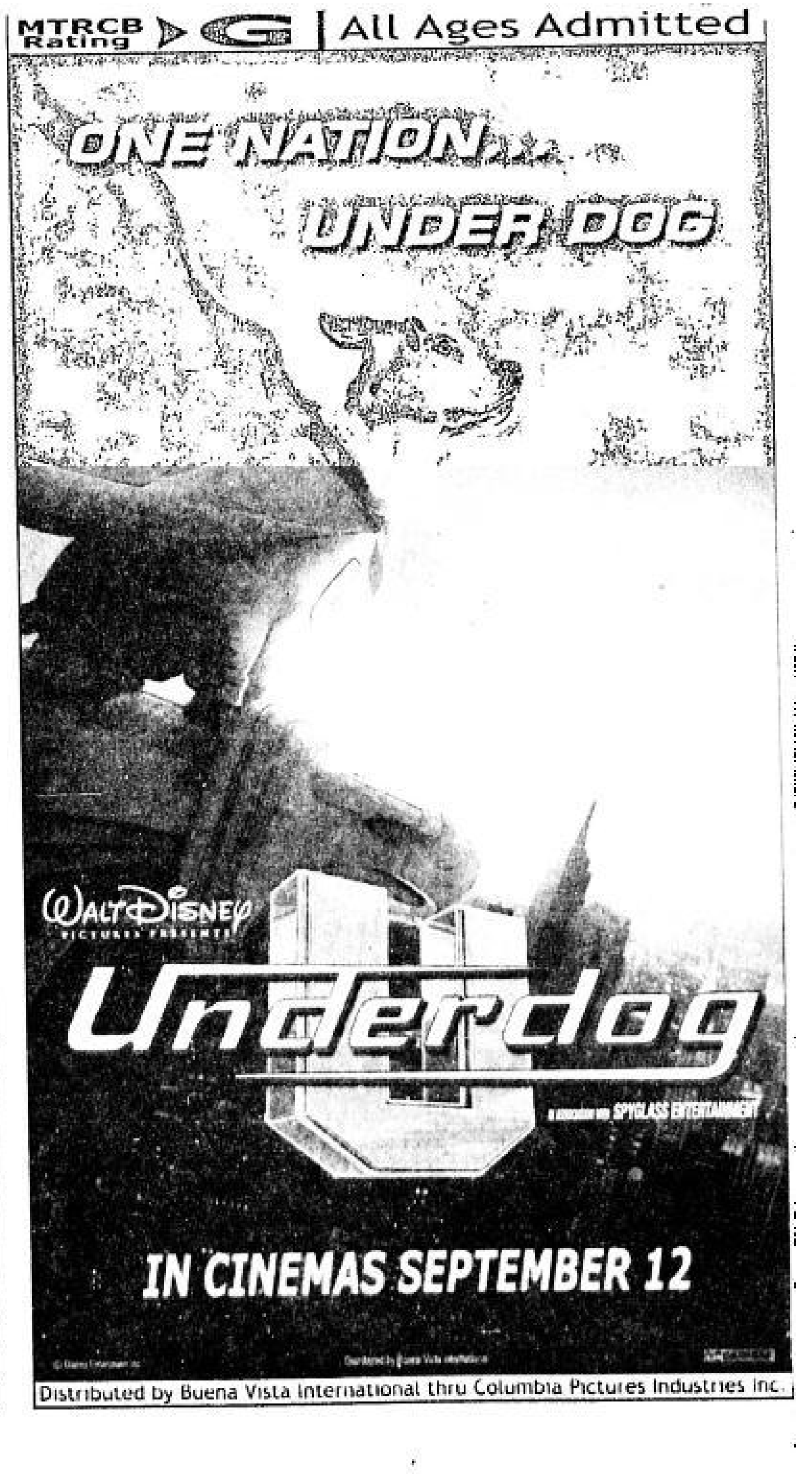

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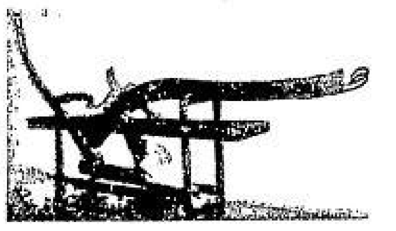
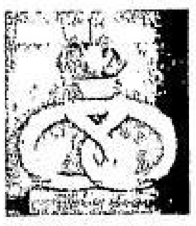
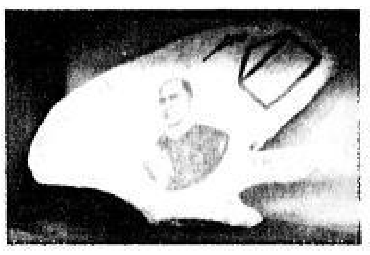
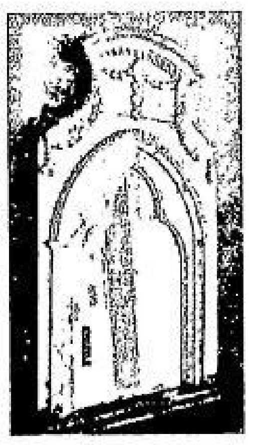

A PLOW in the foyer.


GOLDEN crown is a friend's gift.

ISABELLA sits atop her baby grand from the US.

ANIMAL door knocker from Bali.


REVOLUTIONARY message is painted on "100-year-old pelvic bone of some animal," says Kuh.


KUH TURNED this fragment of a church altar into a mirror frame.

Fusion, in the key of Kuh

From page H1

different corners of the home—for instance, intricately carved wooden cabinets from a church in Loboc, Bohol, and from a school in Cebu. Kuh has placed church benches, an altar table and a bishop's chair (from Cebu), in quiet nooks.

The best-selling recording artist, who just released "K," a CD of modernized *kundiman* ditties, loves to jazz up some of her antique collection. One example is a fragment of a church altar that she turned into a mirror frame.

A worthy centerpiece is the 24-seater narra dining table, made according to her specifications, along with the mahogany billiard table.

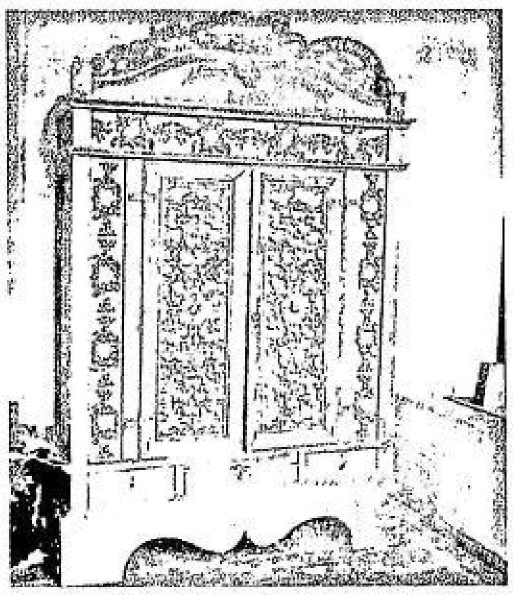
From Venice, California, where she was based in the 1990s, Kuh has brought home more antique and art pieces, brass lamps and vintage cameras. "I was a regular in the flea markets there," she says. "Now, the items from those stores are 10 times more expensive. That's why we take extra care of these pieces."

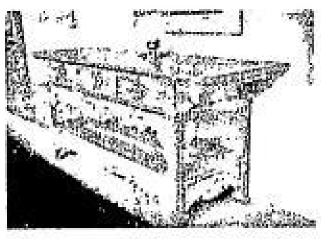
A baby grand piano was shipped from the US. Says Isabella, "This is my piano. It has gone through a lot. It's actually quite funky. It's not *bulok* (decrepit). It has character."

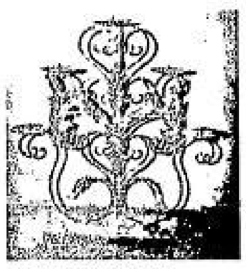
Kuh reveals that she trained her eye for antique-shopping through the years. "If you're interested in it, you can learn quickly and spot a good buy easily." She has picked up lots of tips from books, too, and from friends like writer-director Floy Quintos.

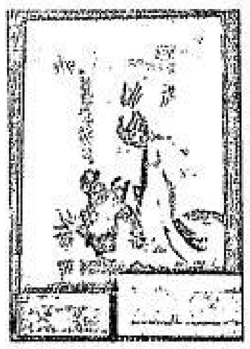
"I also learned a lot from an Australian boyfriend, the son of an ambassador," Kuh recalls. "His mom also taught me a lot about ceramics."

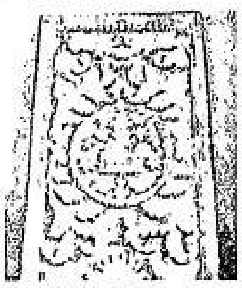
She shares a tip: "Before buying antique jars, check the base, the inside, as well as the kind of ceramic used. You have to be careful because there are a lot of good imitations out there."


INTRICATELY carved wooden cabinet from a church in Loboc, Bohol.


A BUFFET spread can be laid out on this altar table from Cebu.


CANDELABRA serves as accent piece in the hallway.


THE SINGER is fond of Oriental art and brass boxes.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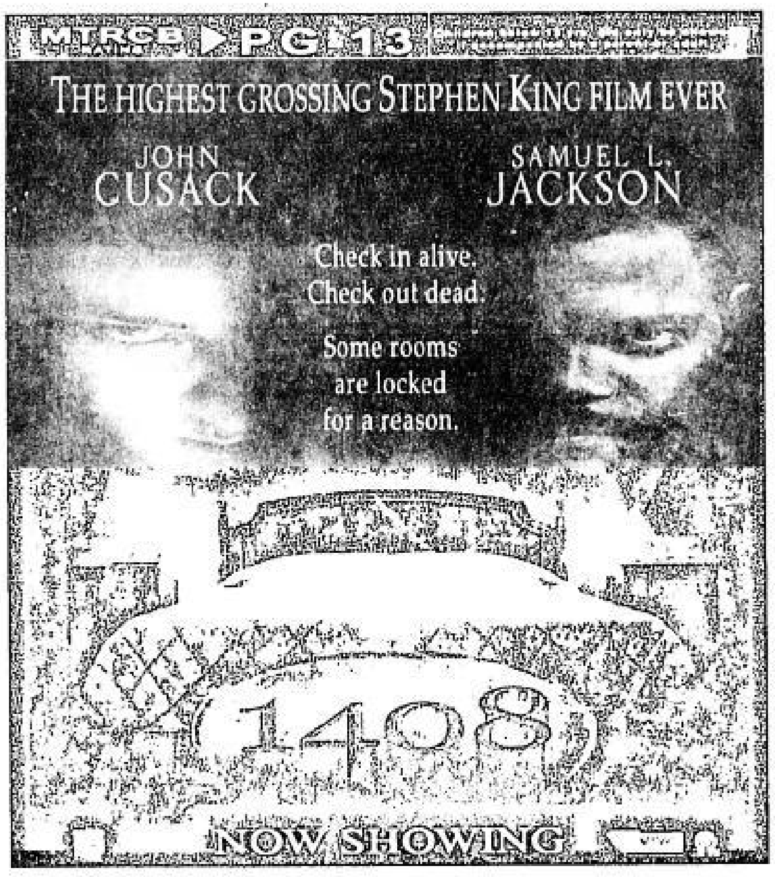
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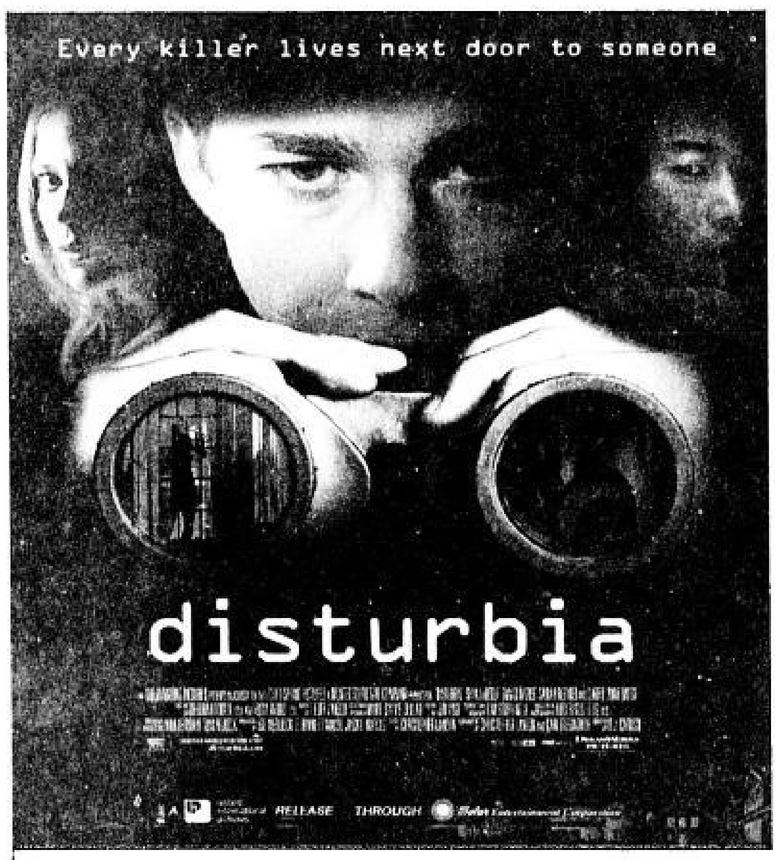
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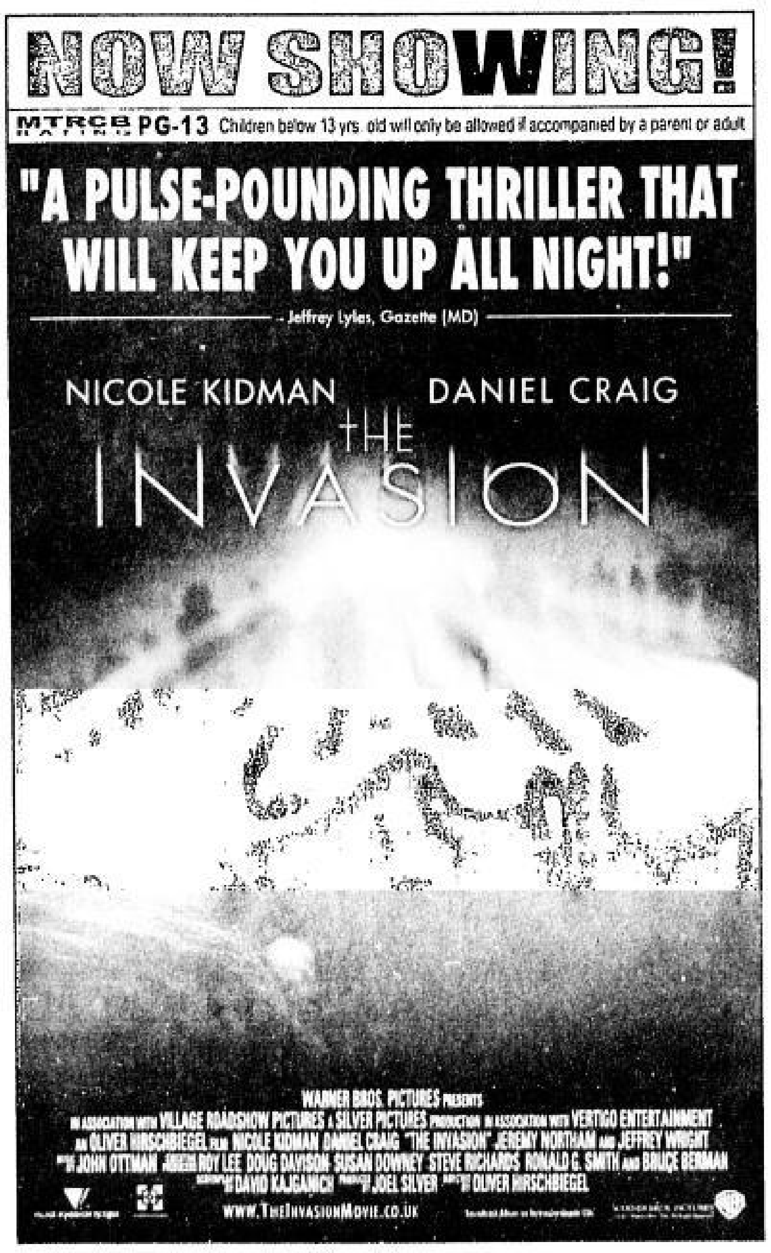
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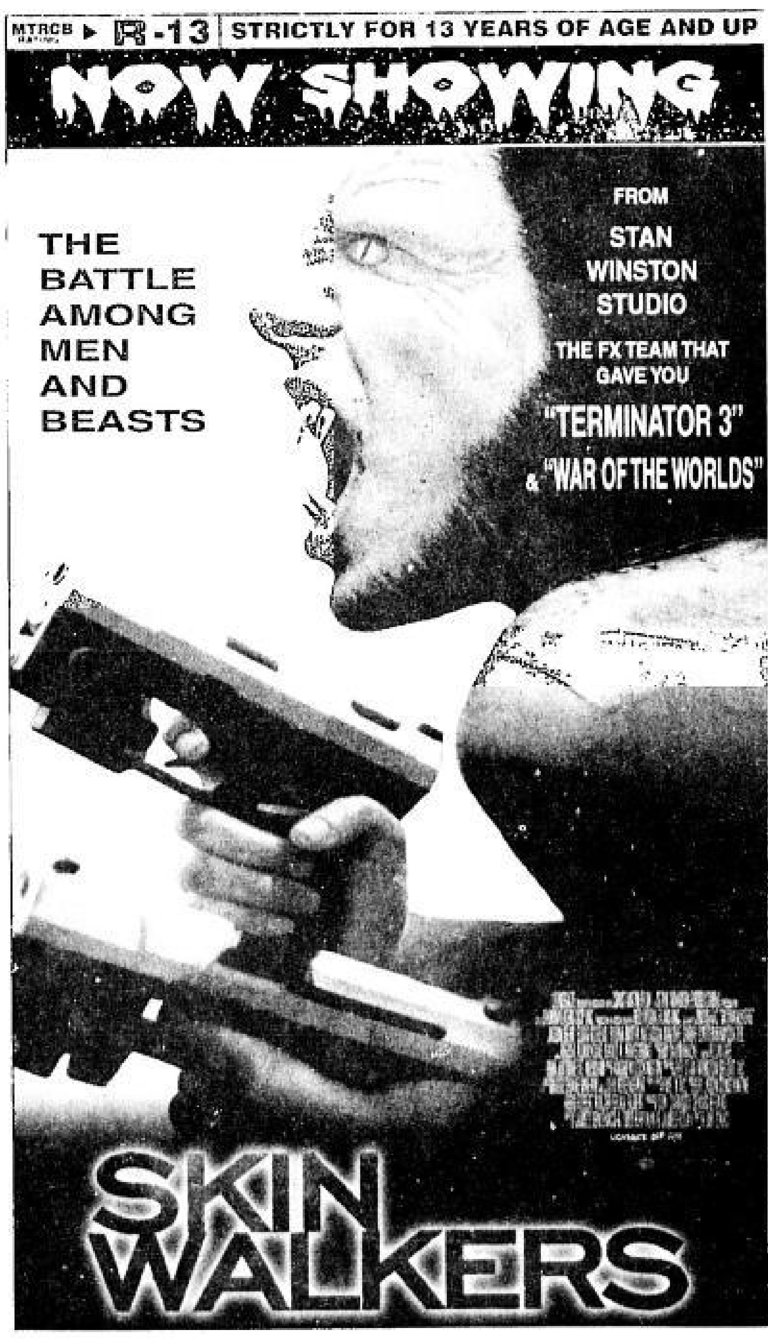
4 INVASION 3:20, 8:10 PG-13 | 1408 1:00, 5:45, 10:40 PG-13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